

RED CHRIS MINE

FALL OF GROUND INCIDENT 2025

Emergency Response, Investigation & Action Plan

Emergency Response at Work

On July 24th, 2025, three members of a contract partner drilling crew were safely brought to the surface of the Red Chris mine (Red Chris) after spending more than two days in an underground refuge chamber. The rescue operation happened in the only access decline in the work area. It was developed in 2021 by the previous operator of Red Chris, Newcrest Mining Limited (Newcrest), as part of exploration efforts aimed at extending the life of the mine (called the Block Cave Project).

The successful rescue was the result of a carefully planned and meticulously executed rescue operation by the Red Chris team and specialist teams from Newmont's Brucejack mine, and other industry partners with the support of the Province of British Columbia (Province), and Tahltan Nation.

This document is intended to provide: general information about the incident and rescue; an overview of the investigation and lessons learned; and the steps being taken to ensure such an incident doesn't happen again.

(Photo above: The Red Chris Rapid Response and Mine Rescue teams meet with Newmont's Executive Leadership Team following the successful rescue operation.)

About Red Chris

Red Chris is an open pit copper and gold mine with block cave potential, about 18 kilometers southeast of Iskut in northwestern British Columbia (BC), Canada. The approved mine site is entirely within Tahltan Territory.

Newmont manages Red Chris in close partnership with Tahltan Nation through an Impact Benefit and Co-Management Agreement (IBCA). The IBCA ensures that Tahltan expertise, perspectives, and values guide Red Chris operations.

Successful Rescue Because of Partnerships



Three members of the drilling crew from Hy-Tech Drilling tag out after their successful rescue.



A crew removes more than ~2,500 tonnes of material from the decline using manual and remote-controlled scoops.



The Red Chris Mine Rescue Team.

How the Incident Unfolded

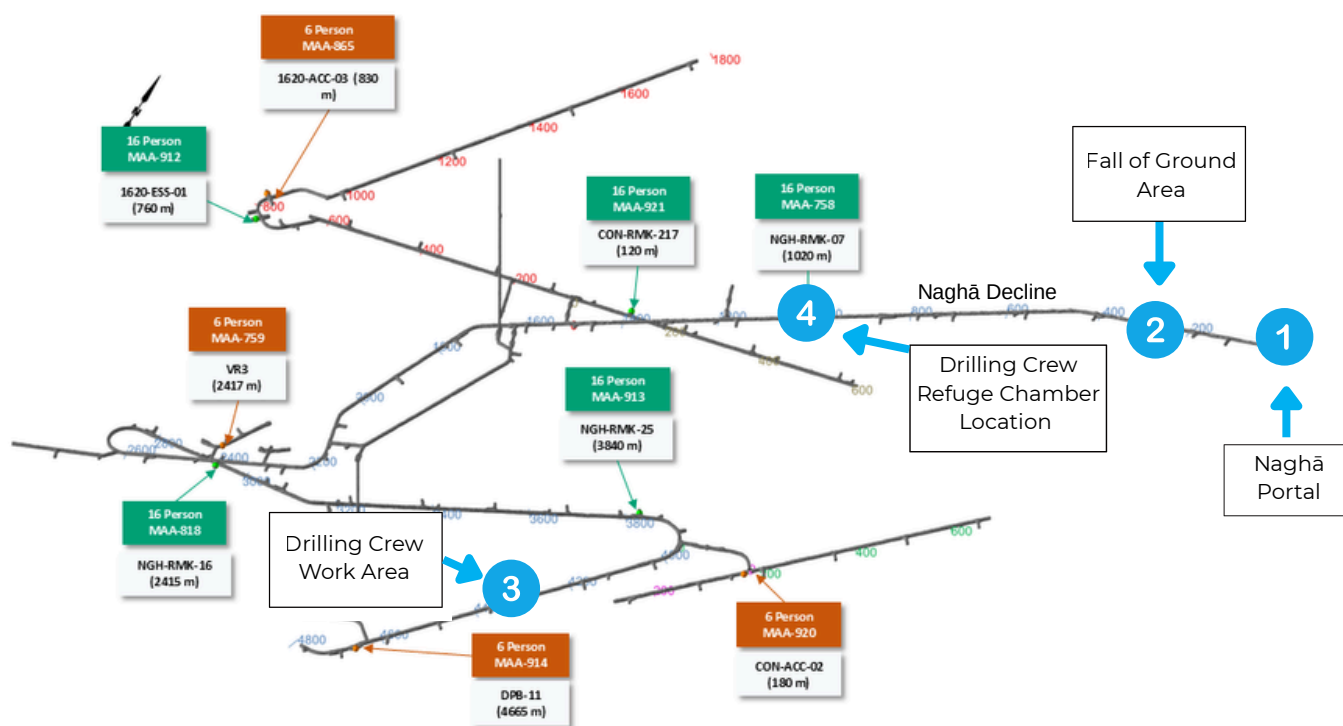


Diagram of Naghā Decline showing locations of (1) Naghā Portal, (2) fall of ground area, (3) drilling crew work area, and (4) drilling crew refuge chamber location (at Remuck 7) as well as the locations of eight other refuge chambers. Source: Newmont RCBC Quarterly Refuge Chamber Plan - July 2025.

Fall of Ground Incident

- On July 22, 2025, at 6:40 am, a three-person contract partner drilling crew enters the Naghā Portal (1).
- During the next hour, an initial fall of ground occurs about 230 metres from the Naghā Portal.
- At approximately 7:47 am, a scoop operator discovers the initial fall of ground (2) which is partially blocking access to the decline.
- The operator notifies his supervisor and returns to the surface to prevent any other workers from entering the portal.

Assessment of Incident

- The drilling crew is working in the decline more than one kilometre from the portal (3) at the time of the initial fall of ground incident.
- The crew is contacted by radio and instructed to shelter in a refuge chamber at Remuck 7 (4), one of nine underground refuge chambers. They arrive at 9:15 am and establish communications at 10:35 am.
- Geotechnical engineers inspect the fall of ground area and begin planning ground stabilization.
- At 11:24 am, more debris falls (~2,000 tonnes) in the same area, damaging communications, power, and air supply to refuge chambers.

Rescue Planning

- The Red Chris Rapid Response Team is activated.
- Rescue efforts continue around the clock; additional teams and specialized equipment arrive at Red Chris.
- Geotechnical assessments are carried out using probe drilling and drone surveys. Additional ground support is installed.
- A crew removes more than ~2,500 tonnes of material from the decline using manual and remote-controlled scoops.
- Geotechnical assessments confirm stability of area.
- Newmont develops a rescue plan in consultation with the BC Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals.

Successful Rescue Operation

- On July 24, 2025 at 10:14 pm, two Emergency Response Team (ERT) members advance through the fall of ground area. They are protected by a remote scoop which is fitted with falling object protection.
- ERT members reach the refuge chamber; they find the drilling crew safe and in good spirits.
- The crew members are transported, one-by-one, to the surface.
- By 10:40 pm, all personnel are safely on the surface.
- After undergoing health assessments, the crew members are reunited with their families.

Rescue Options

The successful rescue was the result of a carefully planned and meticulously executed operation by the Red Chris team, specialist teams from Newmont’s Brucejack mine and other industry partners with the support of the Province and Tahltan Nation. Several options were considered as part of the rescue planning process. A key consideration for all of the options was that a readily available secondary means of egress had not yet been established in the decline where the fall of ground occurred as the project is in the development phase. The rescue options included (but were not limited to):

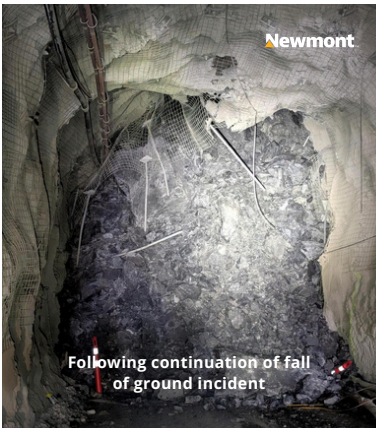


Rescue Options	Applicable Situations	Key Risks
01 Restore access through failed tunnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Limited extent of fall of ground areaAccess with remote-controlled equipmentStability when removing failed material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Access under unsupported ground unless new ground support can be installed
02 Access through existing shaft/vent raise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing vertical infrastructure connecting to area where miners have taken refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rockfall in shaft/raiseInfrastructure at top and bottom of raise/shaft preventing access
03 Horizontal or directional drilling and casing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Access to nearby surface area and infrastructure to establish pipe to area where miners have taken refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Space to set up drill rig on surface or undergroundDeviation of hole to intercept target area
04 Horizontal drill augering through failed material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Material blocking access is sufficiently fragmented and no more than 150 meters (horizontal) in length	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Duration of mobilization.Adequate hardness and fragmentation of failed material
05 Drill person-sized vertical hole & use capsule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Access to set up large-diameter rotary rig or raise boring machine with down-reamer (blind shaft boring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deviation of hole to intercept target areaStability of drillhole
06 Develop around failed area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Option to develop new stable drift around the failed area, focused on maximum speed of lateral development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Instability of ground near failed area and future infrastructureDuration of development

Finding the Cause

Following the successful rescue operation, Newmont convened an investigation team comprised of on-site representatives, members of Newmont’s broader organization, and third-party safety experts. The team’s purpose: investigate the cause of the fall of ground incident and understand any conditions, acts, or procedures that may have contributed to the incident.

Of critical importance to the investigation was to understand why the rock failed beyond the capacity of the installed ground support, which consisted of 2.4 m MD bolts, mesh, and fibrecrete (FRS). Investigators would also try to determine why there was no indication of deterioration of the installed ground support prior to July 22, 2025.



Investigation Findings and Corrective Actions

The investigation determined:

- 1 Time-dependent deterioration of the rock mass over four years increased loads on the ground support system, causing surface support overload and friction-type bolt failures. This led to unravelling of loose material.
- 2 The continuation of the fall of ground occurred because highly fractured rock was left unsupported after initial ground support damage.
- 3 Certain approaches taken during the construction of the decline in 2021 by Newcrest, the previous operator of Red Chris, fell short of Newmont's industry-leading standards:
 - The rock mass classification system used during development (Bieniawski RMR89) lacked a stress reduction factor, leading to overestimation of ground quality. A post-incident investigation using the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) Q classification system resulted in a reclassification of ground quality.
 - Limited geotechnical oversight and standards resulting in ground support that did not account for actual conditions such as increased excavation size and limited testing and quality assurance (QA)/quality control (QC) on ground support performance.
- 4 Newmont has identified and committed to a series of corrective actions to prevent similar occurrences at the Block Cave Project, ensure that excavated areas meet Newmont's standards, and align all future excavation and work associated with those standards. This includes a re-assessment of installed ground support and the installation of additional or alternate ground support based on that reassessment.

The investigation confirms that we can safely build and operate the Block Cave Project by reassessing the installed ground support, updating standards, and addressing the conditions that led to the fall of ground incident.

Learnings and Opportunities

Based on the findings of the investigation, Newmont has identified and intends to implement the following:

Geotechnical Oversight

Assign site-based geotechnical resources during underground project development to ensure focus on ground support design, QA/QC and risk identification.

Hazard Mapping

Implement enhanced geotechnical hazard mapping to highlight and record ground conditions including triggers for review and reassessment of ground support; also supports knowledge transfer for new personnel.

Assurance Activities

Ensure assurance activities cover a reassessment of previously supported ground to help detect latent issues.

Entrapment Risk Planning

In development areas without readily-available secondary egress, risk-based plans should address potential entrapment including plans for rescue and essential services e.g., communications, power and air.

Refuge Chamber Safety

Opportunity to update the Underground Fire and Explosion Standard to require external gas detection on refuge chambers to provide real-time information on the external atmosphere to those inside the chambers.



Barry Nabess (Director of EHS & Training), Kevin Coumbs (Driller), Jesse Chubaty (Driller), Darien Maduke (Driller Helper), and Dwayne Ross (President), Courtesy, Hy-Tech Drilling.



Tahltan and Newmont leadership meet at Dease Lake airport following the successful rescue operation.