

# Review of Fatalities

January 26, 2023 - April 26, 2023

MSHA Stakeholder Meeting

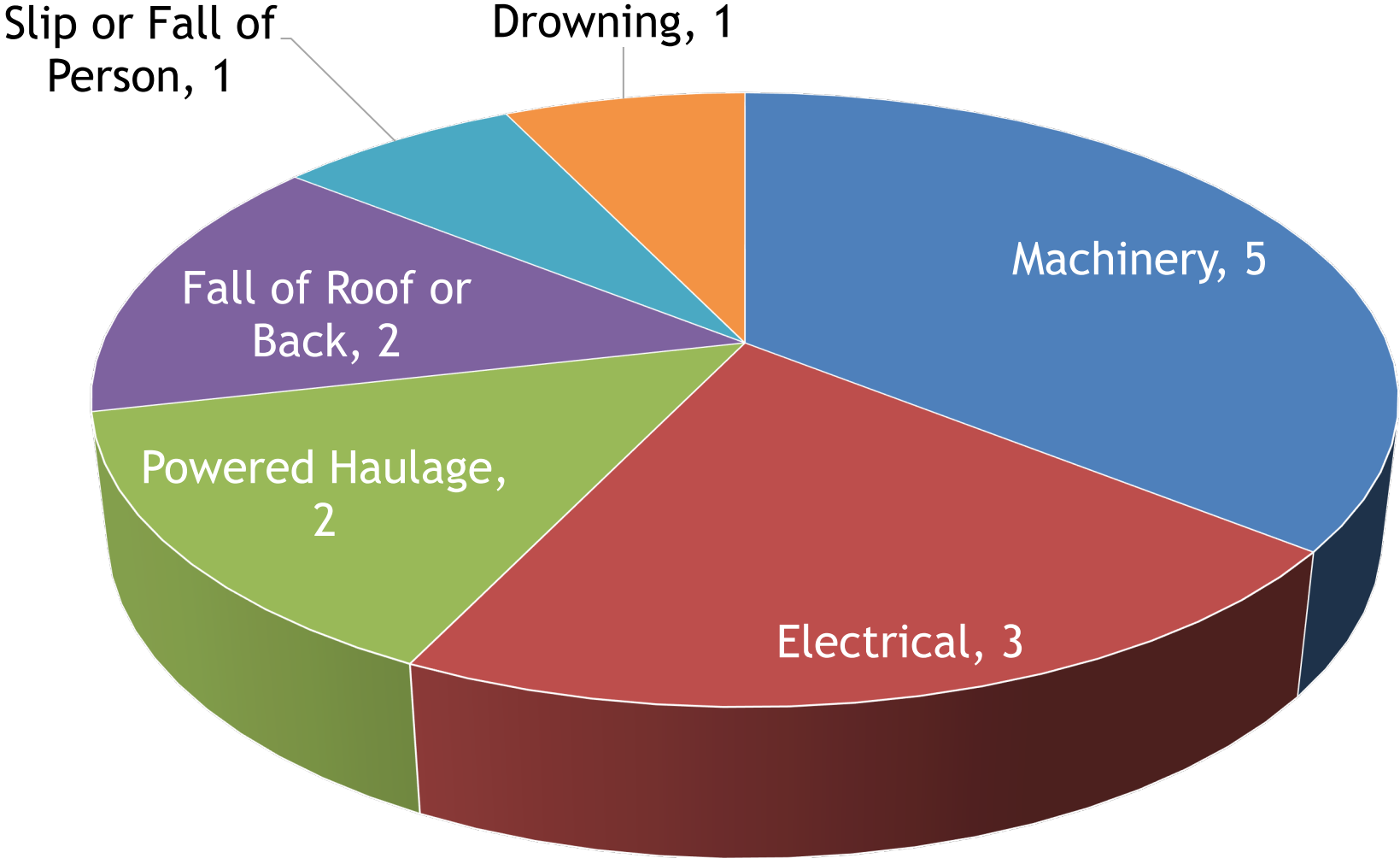
April 26, 2023

Marcus Smith

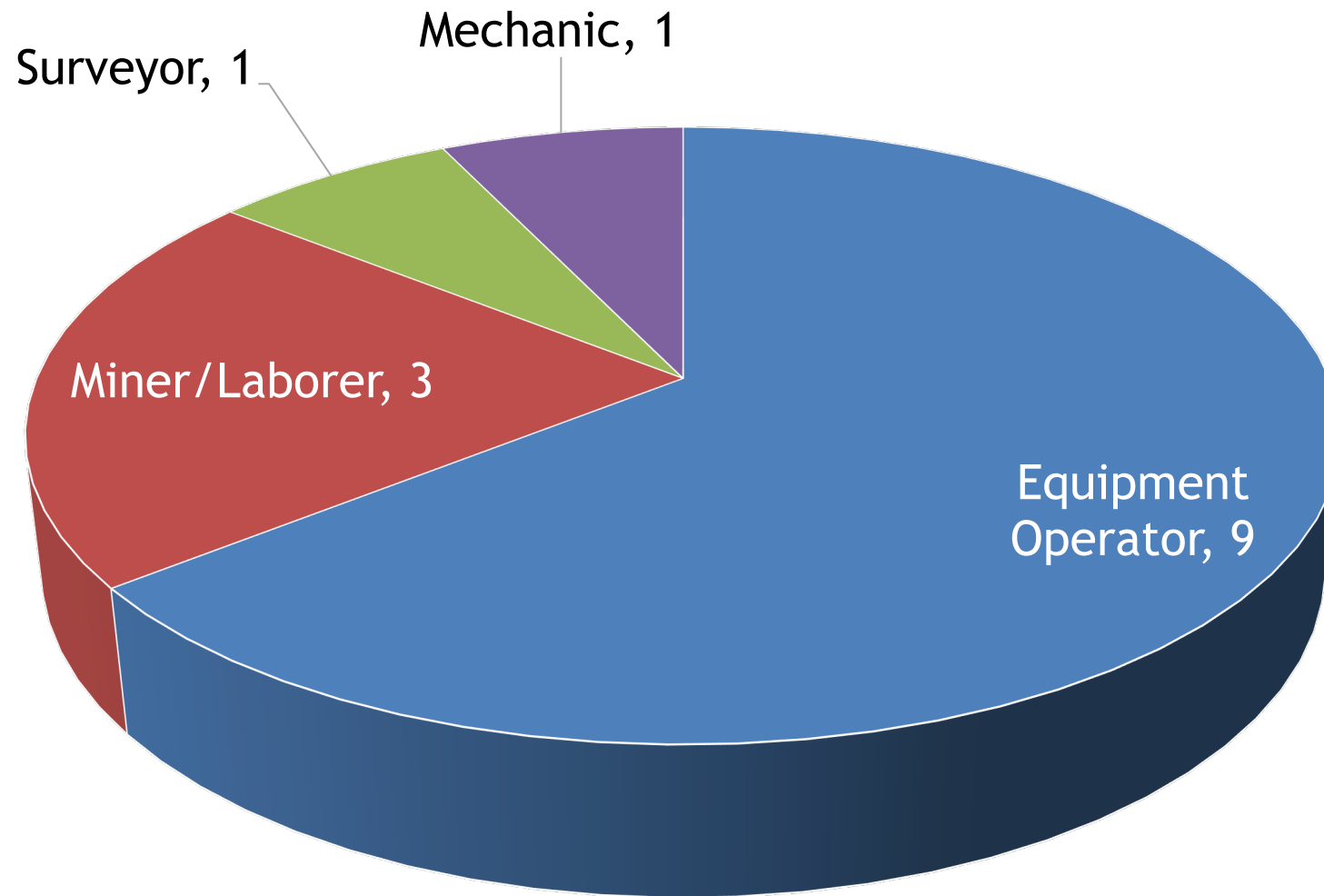
Chief of Accident Investigations

Office of Enforcement

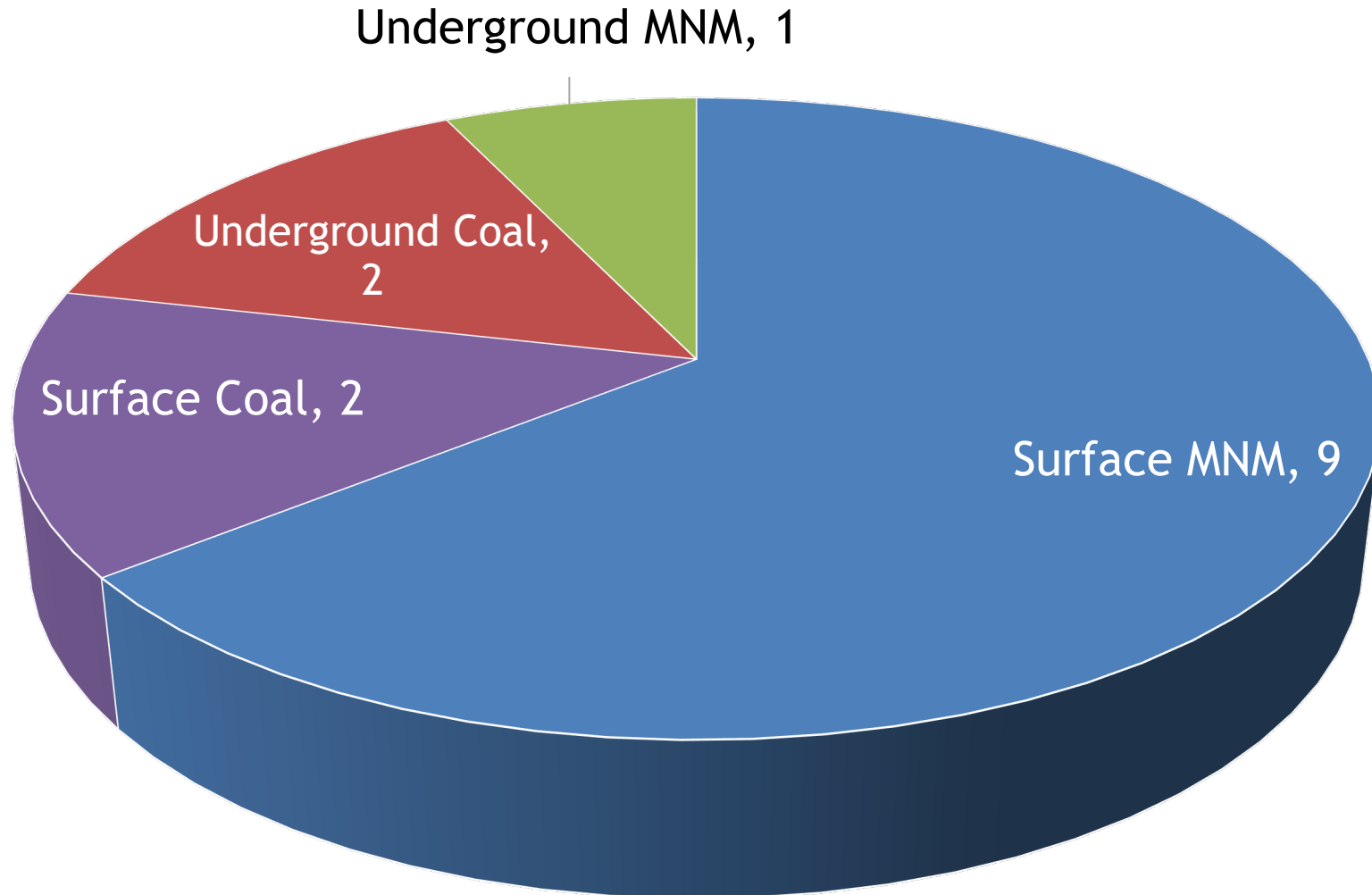
# Accident Classification



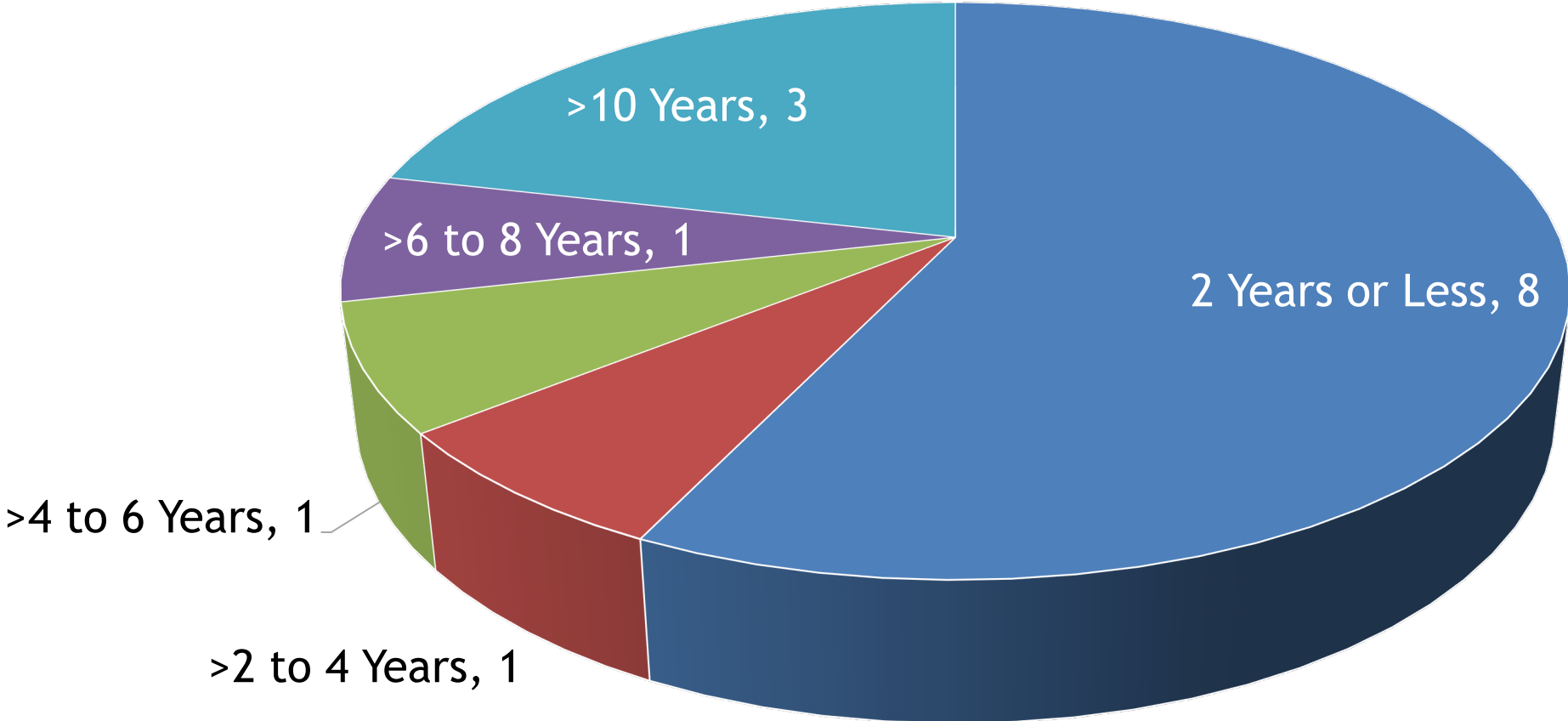
# Job Title



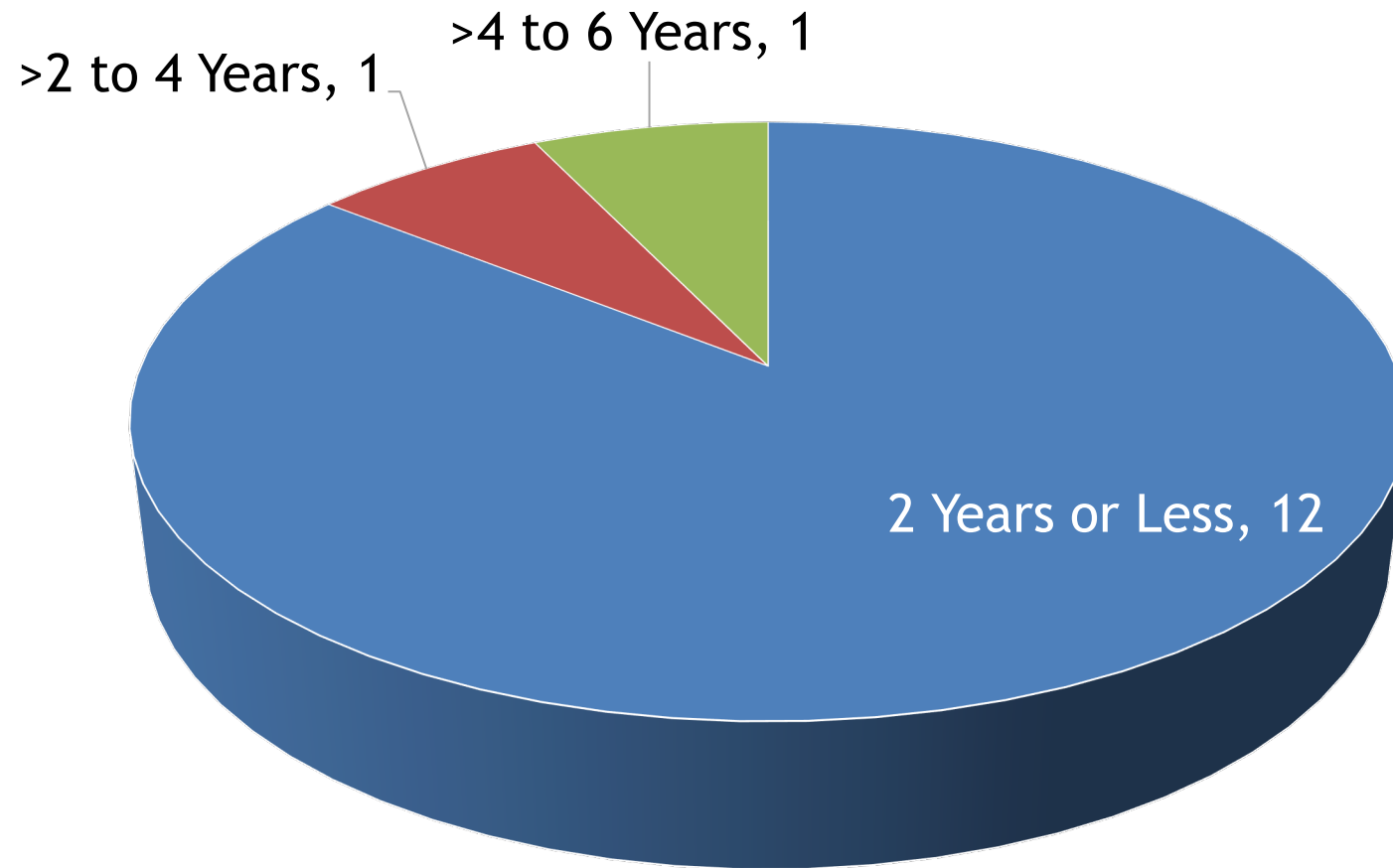
# Location of Accident



# Activity Experience



# Experience at the Mine



# Inexperienced Miners

- ▶ 9 of the 14 victims had less than one year of experience at the mine where the accident occurred.
- ▶ 8 of the 14 victims had less than two years of experience at the activity they were performing at the time of the accident.
- ▶ MSHA Requirements:
  - ▶ New Miner and Newly Hired Experienced Miner Training
  - ▶ Task Training
  - ▶ Site-Specific Hazard Awareness Training
  - ▶ Annual Refresher Training

# Examinations

- ▶ In 9 of the 14 fatalities, mine operators either did not conduct an examination or conducted an inadequate examination.
- ▶ MSHA Requirements:
  - ▶ Workplace Examinations
  - ▶ Preshift, On-shift, Supplemental, and Weekly Examinations for Coal Mines
  - ▶ Pre-Operational Inspections of Equipment
  - ▶ Examinations of Roof/Ground Conditions
  - ▶ Examinations of Electrical Equipment



# Electrical

- ▶ Three electrical accidents resulted in three fatalities and one near miss. In all three cases, haul trucks raised their bed into an overhead high-voltage power line.



On January 27, 2023, two haul truck drivers were electrocuted after an overhead power line came in contact with their haul trucks. They exited the cabs of their haul trucks and came in contact with electrical energy.



On April 19, 2023, a haul truck bed struck a communication wire, pulled forward, and broke the power pole. This caused the energized power lines to fall onto the haul truck. The haul truck driver stayed in the cab and was not injured.

# Best Practices

- ▶ Do not stage, park or position trucks, cranes, or other equipment under overhead power lines.
- ▶ Post warning signs at all approaches to overhead power lines; install barricades where necessary
- ▶ Establish safe approaches and create safe zones for raising and lowering truck beds, booms, and masts.
- ▶ If your truck, boom, or mast contacts an overhead power line:
  - ▶ Remain inside the vehicle
  - ▶ Call emergency response personnel
  - ▶ Inform others to stay away
  - ▶ Exit the truck only if it is on fire. To exit, jump from the truck landing with both feet together. Do not touch the truck and ground at the same time. Then, shuffle both feet as close as possible for at least 30 feet as you move away from the truck.

# March 22, 2023 - Powered Haulage

A miner died when the personnel carrier he was riding overturned. Another miner riding on the personnel carrier accidentally actuated the emergency stop causing the personnel carrier to drift backwards down a grade. The personnel carrier struck a coal rib and overturned, pinning the victim beneath it. The victim was not riding in a designated seating area.



# Best Practices

- ▶ Maintain steering and braking components.
- ▶ Perform functional tests of brakes and other safety devices during the pre-operational examination.
- ▶ Tag out and remove equipment from service when defects affecting safety are found.
- ▶ Do not exceed the maximum designed seating capacity of personnel carriers.
- ▶ Operate mobile equipment at speeds consistent with roadway conditions.
- ▶ Task train miners on all equipment they operate.

# February 26, 2023 - Machinery

A contract miner died while operating a bulldozer. The bulldozer traveled over the edge of an access road and rolled 375 feet down an embankment, ejecting the contract miner from the operator's cab. The contract miner was not wearing a seatbelt.



# Best Practices

Operators should train miners to:

- ▶ Wear a seat belt while operating mobile equipment.
- ▶ Examine ground conditions before beginning work in an area and as ground conditions warrant during the work shift.
- ▶ Operate equipment safely, and to identify and report hazards.
- ▶ Be aware of their position relative to edges of roadways and benches.