



MSHA's Mission and Goals

The purpose of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is to prevent death, disease, and injury from mining and to promote safe and healthful workplaces for the Nation's miners. MSHA has jurisdiction over approximately 2,000 coal mines and 12,200 metal and nonmetal mines nationwide under the provisions of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), as amended by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (MINER Act). MSHA's vision is to lead the way to zero fatalities and to put an end to occupational illness in the mining industry through enforcement of mandatory safety and health standards, statutorily mandated inspections, and proactive compliance assistance.

All Mining	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	CY 2008	CY 2009	CY 2010	CY 2011	Percent change, CY 2005-2011
Total Citations and Orders ¹	127,766	140,082	144,125	173,656	173,418	170,909	157,613	+23%
Total Mining Area Inspection Hours/Mine ²	45	43	44	56	59	63	62	+38%
Mining fatalities	58	73	67	53	34	71	37	-36%
Total mining injuries	12,443	12,057	11,548	11,068	8,897	8,525	8,905	-28%
Number of miners	344,837	363,497	378,123	392,746	355,720	361,176	381,209	+11%

During the period 2005 through 2011, total mining injuries declined by 28 percent.



The Triangle of Success

MSHA has encouraged the development of a culture of prevention in the mining industry, embedding safety and health as core values in all initiatives and ongoing activities. Inspectors are trained to vigorously enforce the law and detect areas and activities that are most likely to place miners at risk. This strong enforcement is complemented by programs that help mine operators understand the law and how to comply with the law’s requirements – and understand the consequences of non-compliance. MSHA’s technical support program applies

scientific and engineering solutions to mitigate hazards. Education and training for the mining industry is crucial to the reduction of accidents and illnesses. MSHA ensures that its training specialists and technical support personnel are readily accessible to the mining industry. MSHA has entered into Alliance Agreements with various industry groups that have created a network of partnerships that encourage the development of safe and healthful workplaces in the nation’s mines. MSHA’s Small Mine Consultation Program (SMCP) assists small mines which may have limited resources to develop effective safety, health and training practices. MSHA established this program to help small mines comply with MSHA's safety and health regulations, develop, and maintain safety and health programs to protect their miners.

Rates of mining injuries substantiate safety progress

Rates of injury are recognized as the most reliable index of safety progress. The mining industry achieved substantial reductions in injury rates across the board from CY 2005 to CY 2011.

All Mining	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	CY 2008	CY 2009	CY 2010	CY 2011	Percent change, CY 2005-2011
Lost-time injury rate ³	2.65	2.45	2.33	2.19	2.04	1.88	1.80	-32%
All injury rate ³	3.92	3.64	3.43	3.25	3.01	2.81	2.73	-30%

1-Citations and orders are those not vacated

2-Total Mining Area Time includes: On-site Inspection Time (M/NM), MMU Pit Time (Coal), Outby Area Time (Coal), Surface Area Time (Coal), Citation/Order writing On-Site. On-site inspection hours represent hours entered by Authorized Representatives of the Secretary (AR) for certain inspection activities and task codes.

3-Reported injuries per 200,000 hours worked