



MINER Matters

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Safety Champion—Mike Crum



Nuggets

You will never know the importance of a seatbelt until you need it. Keep your tail in the truck by buckling up!

Editor
Laura McMullen

ARLINGTON, Va.- Safety Champions are the miners that go the extra mile to make sure that all hazards are fixed and everyone is working safely. They are respected and admired for their dedication and determination. Every miner at their mine knows who their safety champions are. They may give them a hard time, but they always listen to them and take their advice seriously. Often times safety champions are not recognized for all the extra work they do to make sure that the mine is safe and the miners are working safely. My father was my first safety champion. He was always riding my tail about doing it right the first time, and doing it safely.

I come from a family of miners. All of us work safe and always approach a job safely. We do this because we have a safety champion that cared about making sure we went home safe and sound every day. During my career in mining I have had the opportunity to meet many safety champions. It takes courage, bravery, and wisdom to be a safety champion. Often they have to work with individuals that do not see the benefits of working safely. The work that they do for all of us miners makes our jobs safer, and this allows us to go home safe and sound every night. Next time you see your safety champion, tell him or her thanks for looking out for your safety!

Showcase Mine—Safe Workplace Initiative



The FMC Mine in Green River, Wyoming mines trona and makes soda ash. They have an underground section and a surface section at the mine. Their safety and health risk assessment management team was developed by their Steelworker miners. The miners developed and implemented the “Safe Workplace Initiative (SWI)” safety and health program that is used by FMC. SWI has a theme that they live by “Miners looking out for each other!” The SWI Miner Steering Committee meets routinely to discuss the safe and at-risk observations observed by the miners. Over 50% of the miners are trained safety observers and all of the miners are observed to determine if they are working safely or at-risk. The observers take the time to watch how a task is performed and communicate back to the miner being observed what they saw them doing safely or if they did something that was at-risk. SWI’s purpose is to recognize their shared responsibility toward safety, to design and implement, and guide a Safe Workplace Initiative process that will:

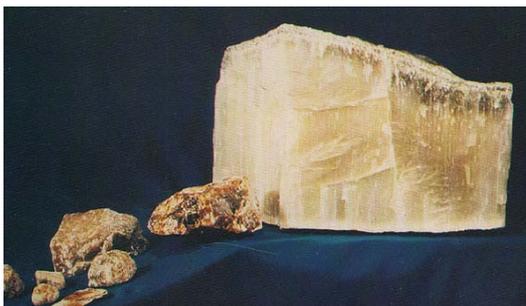
- Identify safe as well as at-risk work practices
- Look for and correct conditions that would put miners at risk
- Provide positive reinforcement for safe work practices
- Address barriers to safe work practices
- Prevent accidents before they happen

SWI’s ultimate goal: All workers return home after work safe and unhurt.

MSHA wants to congratulate and thank FMC employees for their significant commitment to the safety and health of our Nation’s miners! FMC is one of the cleanest and most organized mines MSHA has ever seen. Well done!

SODA ASH or TRONA

Sodium Carbonate (Soda Ash or Trona): Is used in glass container manufacture, in fiberglass and specialty glass, in the production of flat glass, in powdered detergents, in medicine, as a food additive, photography, cleaning and boiler compounds, and as a pH control of water.



By far, the majority of soda ash is used to make glass. The next largest use is to make a variety of chemicals, followed by soaps and detergents, distributors, the removal of sulfur from smokestack emissions, paper and paper pulp production, water treatment, and other assorted uses. These other uses include oil refining, making synthetic rubber, and explosives.

Safety is Always on my Mind!



When it comes to safety, a miner's work is never done. There is always something you have to check out and something that has to be fixed. I always take the time to fix safety hazards when I find them. I have worked 55 years without an accident. When the new guys get hired I always tell them how important safety is. My philosophy "If you don't work safely today, tomorrow won't matter!"

Quoted by: [Lynn Gregersen](#), a Nevada Miner



If you are interested in the SLAM program, MSHA can help you develop and implement one for your mine. Please contact your district office and they will set you up with a SLAM specialist ([District Contact Numbers](#))



The Mission of WIM is: Educating the community and youth about how mining products are commonly used every day by every one in many ways.

WOMEN IN MINING (WIM) is a nationwide organization composed of individuals employed in, associated with, or interested in the mining industry.

Members include engineers, geologists, land men, secretaries, lobbyists, mine workers, educators and concerned citizens. Many WIM members are business and civic leaders extending their influence and expertise into their local communities. Such varied backgrounds are extremely beneficial to the organization and members are encouraged to share this expertise and experience both formally and informally.

In addition to providing valuable educational benefits, the WIM organization offers members an opportunity to become acquainted and work with others involved in the mining industry. Members acquire new personal and professional contacts. You can find out more about WIM at www.womeninmining.org.



The Dinner Bucket

Practice does not make perfect, it makes PERMANENT

Jack Cottle



A Miner's Poem

It's Up To Me

I want a workplace, that's Injury Free
And if that's going to happen, then it's up to me.

I can't take for granted, that anyone,
Has done all the things, that I should have done.

I must, take the time, with each task I do,
To look for the hazards, and think the job through.

To check the procedures and follow them all
And reject taking shortcuts, no matter how small.
When I walk through the workplace, I must stay alert
To watch for those things, that could get people hurt.

And if I see a hazard, I won't rest until,
I have made the thing safe, or know someone will.

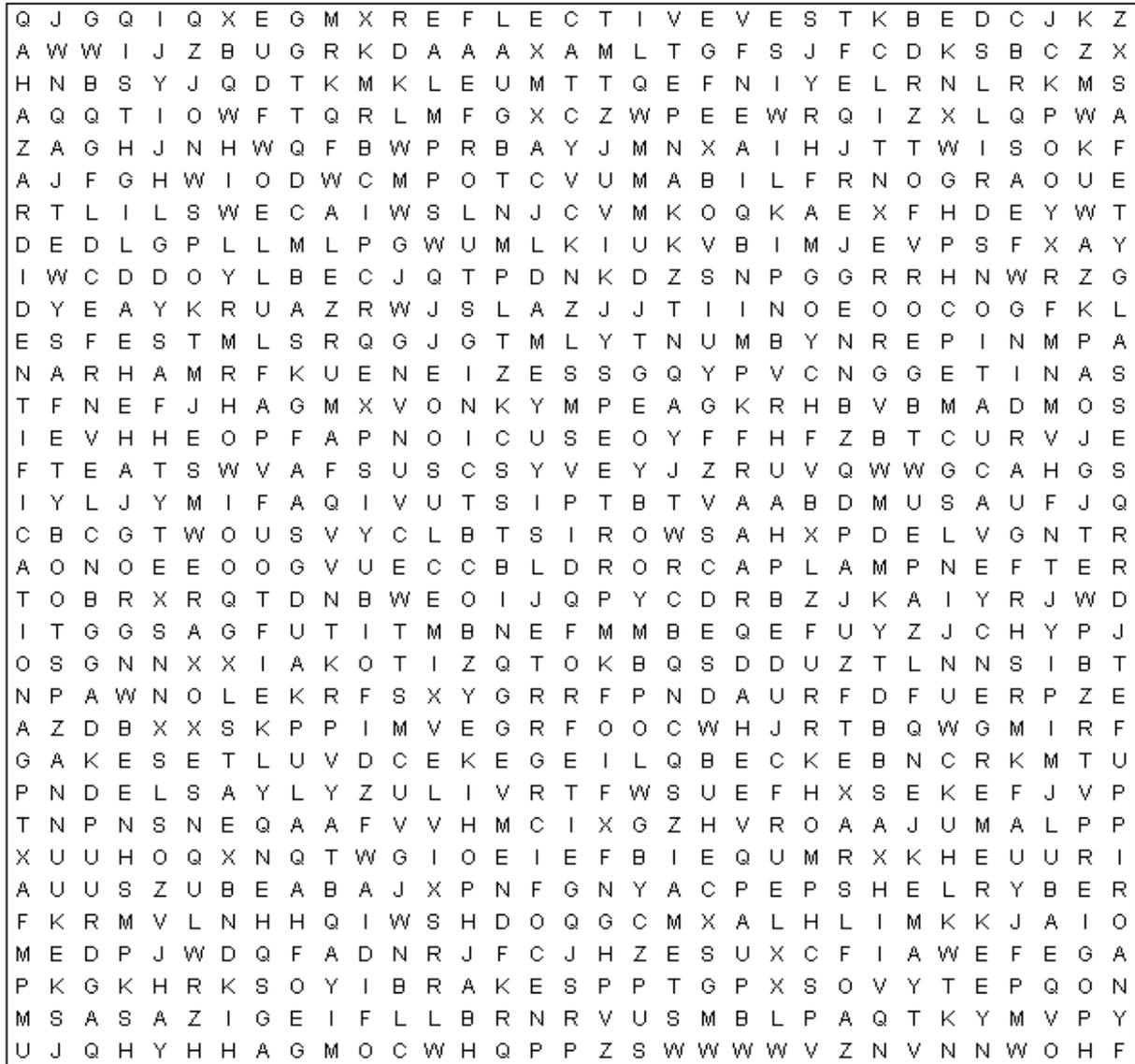
I must question each unsafe behavior I see,
And encourage all others, to do that for me.
I must always give safety, the best I can do.
And expect that performance of all others too.

I must always remember to let people see,
That their safe behavior, is important to me.
Every act is important, no matter how small.

For the safety of one, is the safety of all
We can all have a workplace that's injury free
If we each one Commit, to Making It Be,
If we all do our part, and each of us see,
If It's Going to Happen, - Then It's Up To Me.

Don Merrell

Safety Works Word Search



inspections

personal protective equipment

safety boots

safety glasses

reflective vest

examinations

hard hat

fire extinguisher

cap lamp

coveralls

ear plugs

hazard identification

guarding

visibility

seatbelts

horn

head lights

brakes

berms

traffic controls

training

emergency evacuations drills

emergency procedures