



January 22, 2004

TO THE MINING COMMUNITY

Subject: Miner's Health and Safety

We at MSHA have just recently completed another winter alert initiative. I want to thank all of you for your support of miners' health and safety. I also appreciate all of your work and effort in making the month of December a fatality free month for the first time in mining. The month of December has notoriously been the worst month for fatalities. Many times after programs have been completed, there can be a reduction or an easing of effort. I ask each and every one of you to keep your guard up in making safety a priority. Please continue to focus your efforts on mine examinations, ventilation, rock dusting, and escapeway and evacuation awareness.

While much of our effort has been dedicated to the underground portion of mining, I ask the surface operators to also be on guard against such things as hazardous haulage roads because of inclement weather, the freezing and sudden shifting of loads in haulage trucks, and taking examination shortcuts because of the cold weather.

MSHA will begin holding quarterly stakeholder meetings in our District office in Morgantown next month. I am interested in getting input from mine operators and miners concerning topics that you would like to discuss. I am also interested in knowing what time of the day or evening would best suit your schedules. Please mail or email me any suggestions that you may have. I will be working on an agenda in the next few weeks and hope to have a meeting during the last week of February.

Sincerely,

[//Kevin G. Stricklin](#)

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