

HAZARD ALERT BULLETIN



A serious accident occurred in District 5 on June 6, 2008 involving a water truck. The truck ran away while descending a 16% grade haul road. The truck went out of control and veered into a ditch. The water tank broke loose and slid forward into the cab causing crushing injuries to the driver.

Several serious (some fatal) accidents have occurred on coal haul roads involving water trucks in recent years. The purpose of this flyer is to remind everyone of the potential hazards involved with operating these vehicles on steep grades.

Best Practices

- **Ensure that all water truck operators are thoroughly familiar with the vehicle, roads and grades before operating the vehicle – PROPER TRAINING IS A MUST!**
- **Always perform safety checks and maintain brakes in good condition**
- **Design roadways with the least amount of grade possible**
- **Drive at safe speeds consistent with the condition of the roadway**
- **Adopt prudent speed limits, post signs and enforce all safety rules**
- **Shift into lower gears before approaching downhill grades**
- **Construct runaway ramps along roadways where needed**

**Ray McKinney
District Manager
District 5**

