

# Serious Accident



A serious accident occurred in District 5 on December 7, 2010, involving a coal truck. While descending the coal haul road, the tractor/trailer came out of gear and the brakes failed to slow the truck. As the truck gained speed, the driver attempted to make a sharp turn. The truck ran through a berm and overturned onto the driver's side 23.5 feet down an embankment. The driver received serious back injuries.

Several serious injuries (some fatal) have occurred on haul roads involving coal trucks. Please be mindful of the potential hazards when traveling on steep grades.

## Best Practices

- NEVER operate a truck or other mobile equipment without using a seatbelt.
- Know the truck's capabilities, operating ranges and load limits.
- Always select the proper gear and downshift well in advance of descending a grade.
- Maintain equipment braking and steering systems in good repair and adjustment.
- Construct center berms and runaway ramps where the grade is steep, such as grades over 10%.
- Use construction techniques as outlined in the MSHA Haul Road Inspection Handbook (Handbook Number PH 99-I-4).

District 5  
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District Manager

