Too often, miners enter a “work zone” without the worker in that area knowing that they are present. The result can be devastating. These work zones may be as large as the area around a piece of equipment or as small as the length of a board being carried by a co-worker. Entering the work zone without being acknowledged by your co-worker can get you whacked by the board or run over by the equipment.

BEST PRACTICES

• Recognize patterns in operating systems - i.e., haulage routes, loader cycles, reach of draglines and shovels, etc.

• Define boundaries of “work zones” around plants, equipment, etc., including range of failed systems (cable whip, spilled product, etc.). Special attention is required where the work zones intersect and overlap.

• Keep track of others in your work zone and let them know where you are.

• Establish eye contact with co-workers prior to entering their work zone.

• Always establish “2-way” communication whenever it is necessary to enter work zones. Do not enter another’s zone until the employee active in that zone acknowledges your presence.

• When leaving another’s zone always let them know. They can spend time and stress wondering if you are in harm’s way.

Note: During the time period 1/1/1995 – 3/22/2002 there were 55 fatalities out of 620 for the time period, or 8.87% resulting from visibility/communications issues

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