

Operating Equipment Near Water



Best Practice Series BP-14



Operating equipment near a body of water can pose a potential hazard in your job. Several miners have died in drowning or drowning-related accidents.

These fatalities occurred when either out-of-control trucks ended up in the water, or when ground failed beneath a piece of equipment and the machine fell into the water.

Equipment operators should:

- **ALWAYS** check ground conditions before starting work and during your shift. Look for signs of instability such as cracks or settlement, and report possible unsafe ground conditions to the proper person as soon as possible.
- **ALWAYS** keep draglines as far back from the edge as possible, and **NEVER** undercut the support for the machine.
- **ALWAYS** move equipment back at any indication the edge may be unstable.
- **ALWAYS** keep equipment tracks perpendicular to the edge so that if part of the edge collapses, the machine will still be supported and can be moved back.

- **ALWAYS** be alert in rainy weather because it can affect ground stability.

Mine operators should:

- **PROVIDE** ample berms where there is danger of equipment leaving the roadway, or going over a dump site, and ending up in the water.
- **PROVIDE** traffic patterns and roads that minimize the danger of machines traveling near bodies of water.
- **MAKE** sure there's enough illumination to allow miners to detect potentially unsafe ground conditions when working near water.
- **PROVIDE** training for equipment operators on the hazards of operating equipment near a body of water.

Arrive Home Alive

*U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
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