

Machinery Safety for Contractors



Best Practice Series BP-15

A large percentage of contractor fatalities are machinery-related.

In coal mining most contractor fatalities occurred in powered haulage accidents, with some of the victims being truck drivers.

In metal/nonmetal mining, most of the contractor fatalities happened in accidents that involved machinery or powered haulage. A lot of the victims were truck drivers.

To help prevent accidents contract miners, mechanics, and equipment operators should:

- **ALWAYS** familiarize themselves with the equipment operator's manual for a machine before operating it in production.
- **ALWAYS** obtain directions to the work area and information about mine hazards.
- **ALWAYS** perform pre-operation safety checks on equipment, and conduct work area examinations.
- **ALWAYS** report safety problems and other important maintenance problems immediately to the proper person.
- **ALWAYS** deenergize equipment before troubleshooting or attempting to make repairs.
- **ALWAYS** review the appropriate service manual when performing in-depth repairs.
- **ALWAYS** wear the personal protective equipment the job requires.
- **ALWAYS** wear safety belts or lines whenever there's a danger of falling.

- **ALWAYS** be sure guards are adequate and in place when working around machinery.
- **ALWAYS** block machinery against sudden movement or lowering when doing repair work.
- **ALWAYS** stay clear of suspended loads.
- **ALWAYS** try to work where others can see, hear, or talk to them.
- **ALWAYS** verify that the repairs they made have corrected the problem.

To help prevent machinery accidents mine operators and contractors should:

- **PROVIDE** machine-specific task training for equipment operators and mechanics.
- **PROVIDE** hazard awareness training for equipment operators and mechanics.
- **PROVIDE** operator's and service manuals and charts for all their equipment, and require equipment operators and mechanics to read them.
- **PROVIDE** adequate training, equipment, and facilities for maintenance personnel, so they can safely do the jobs expected of them.
- **ESTABLISH** preventive maintenance programs that follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- **REQUIRE** equipment operators to test brakes frequently on all mobile equipment as recommended by the manufacturer.
- **REQUIRE** maintenance personnel to verify that repairs have been completed correctly, and that the machine is safe to operate.

Arrive Home Alive

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