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.