Truck Haulage

Best Practice Series
BP-42

Accidents involving mobile equipment, particularly trucks, continue to claim the lives of miners.

Injuries and even fatalities to truck drivers usually result from:

- ✓ Drivers operating trucks with safety defects, such as inadequate brakes.
- ✓ Trucks going over the edge of roads or dumping points due to overtravel and/or the lack of proper berm, or the collapse of the edge of the slope.
- ✓ Loss of control due to equipment failure or operator error.
- ✓ Inadequate training of drivers related to the equipment they are operating and the roads and conditions over which they are driving.
- ✓ Failure to wear seat belts.
- ✓ Driving when tired or drowsy or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- ✓ Overloading or operating on grades too steep and/or narrow for the load being hauled.
- ✓ Not following traffic rules and signs.
- ✓ Operating at excessive speeds.

To prevent truck accidents, drivers should always:

✓ Check the equipment and correct all safety defects before use. Report any problems to mine management.

✓ Operate trucks only on well-bermed roads and stable areas. (Berms or guardrails should be at least mid-axle height.)

✓ Know the truck, its capabilities, its operating ranges and load limits, and be familiar with all of its safety features.

✓ Maintain and update training, especially when operating new equipment or when traveling over unfamiliar areas.

✓ Wear seat belts and not attempt to jump free.

✓ Get adequate rest and never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

✓ Operate only on roads having grades compatible with the load and the width/length of the truck; and should not attempt to downshift after starting down grade.

✓ Follow traffic rules and directions of posted signs; and know the traffic patterns in use.

✓ Reduce speed where conditions warrant.

✓ Set the parking brake before dismounting or leaving truck.

Arrive Home Alive