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Arrive Home Alive

U.S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration

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January 2012

MSHA Notice for Contractors



Best Practice Series

BP-66

This notice is to provide you with information about the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act) and to ensure that you are aware of your responsibilities as a contractor on mine property under the Mine Act.

Independent contractors performing services or construction at a mine fall under the jurisdiction of the Mine Act. This means that independent contractors must comply with the Mine Act and the safety and health standards contained in Title 30, Code of Federal Regulations (30 CFR).

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is the Federal agency which administers the provisions of the Mine Act and enforces its requirements. MSHA issues citations and orders to independent contractors for violating safety and health laws. Each violation cited will result in the assessment of a civil penalty.

Contractors who perform work on mine property must be informed of hazards which exist on the property and are specific to the mine operation.

Many independent contractors and contractor employees have been injured and killed while working on mine property. A large percentage of contractor fatalities occurred in these categories:

- Material Haulage
- Operation and Maintenance of Mobile or Stationary Equipment
- Operation and Maintenance of Electrical Powered Equipment
- Slide and Fall of Materials
- Falls from Equipment and Work Surfaces

The following **Best Practices** are designed to assist you in working more safely. These safety tips apply to all types of mining operations.

- **WEAR** appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment for the job you're doing.
- **PAY** attention to weather conditions.
- **FOLLOW** all safety rules and procedures – shortcuts can kill.
- **REMOVE** defective equipment from service.
- **DEENERGIZE** equipment and use lockout and tagout procedures before troubleshooting or attempting to make repairs (qualified persons only).
- **ASSUME** that all electrically-powered devices and power lines are energized (hot).
- **BE** careful around power lines.
- **USE** safety lines or other fall protection measures where there's a danger of falling.
- **MAKE** sure you have the right tool for the job.
- **BE** sure guards are adequate and in place while working around machinery.
- **KEEP** well clear of moving machinery when testing equipment with guards off.
- **REPLACE** guards correctly after completing repairs.
- **BLOCK** equipment from movement before working on, under, or around it.
- **BEWARE** of stockpiles and banks. They can collapse without warning and bury you alive.

NEVER . . .

- work beneath suspended loads;
- walk on a stockpile;
- work or stand between your equipment and a highwall, stockpile, or bank.

Machinery Safety

Machine operators should develop a “Zero Compromise” safety attitude. Simply put, this means that you should not operate equipment that is not properly maintained.

You should be trained in how to operate the machine. Knowledge of the machine and how it works is directly proportional to your ability to safely operate and control the machine in an emergency.

Inspecting the workplace for potentially hazardous conditions is an important part of every equipment operator's job. Using an equipment inspection system will help you make sure that the machine is mechanically sound and in good operating condition.

Perform a systematic pre- and post-operation inspection of the machine using a designated inspection report form to record your comments. Check to see if there is a manufacturer's manual on the machine. (Be sure to read and apply.)

ALWAYS . . .

- **MAINTAIN** three points of contact when climbing or descending ladders.
- **CLEAN** the cab and windows.
- **SIGNAL** before moving.
- **PAY** attention to blind spots.
- **FOLLOW** the mine's safety rules and safety procedures.
- **OPERATE** equipment according to weather conditions.
- **WEAR** your seat belt!
- **STAY** in your vehicle's cab. The cab is the safest place to be and where other equipment operators expect to find you.
- **PROPERLY** park the machine a safe distance from other machines.
- **OPERATE** machinery at safe speeds.

NEVER mount or dismount a moving machine.