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

## Fatalgrams and Fatal Reports

Fatality #47 - November 23, 2010 Powered Haulage - Surface - Kentucky RexCoal Company, Inc. - Rex Strip #1

**COAL MINE FATALITY -** On Tuesday, November 23, 2010, a 32-year old service man with 6 years of experience, was killed at a surface mine. The victim was driving a tandem axle lube truck down a grade into an active work area of the mine when he lost control of the truck. The truck struck an embankment and overturned onto its left side. The victim either jumped or was thrown from the truck.



**Best Practices** 

- Conduct pre-operational safety checks of all mobile equipment.
- Equipment defects affecting safety shall be corrected before the equipment is used.
- Always wear a seat belt when operating a truck or mobile equipment.
- Maintain adequate berms on the outer banks of elevated roadways.
- Construct haulage roads to grade and lane widths appropriate for all equipment used.
- Train all employees on proper operation procedures, hazard recognition, and avoidance.
- Ensure traffic rules, signals, and warning signs are posted and obeyed.
- Maintain equipment braking and steering systems in good repair and adjustment.
- Do not exceed the truck's capabilities, operating ranges, load-limits and safety features.
- Operate vehicles in the appropriate gear and avoid changing gears when descending grades.
- Ensure there is sufficient illumination of working areas and lights are maintained on mobile equipment.
- Do not exit or jump from a moving vehicle.

For more information to prevent these types of accidents click on the following link: MSHA - Safety Targets Program - Operating Surface Equipment (Coal) Safety Target Package

This is the 47<sup>th</sup> fatality reported in calendar year 2010 in the coal mining industry. As of this date in 2009 there were 16 fatalities reported in the coal mining industry. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> fatality classified as Powered Haulage in 2010. At this time in 2009, there were 7 fatalities in this classification.

The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.