

METAL/NONMETAL MINE FATALITY – On May 9, 2018, a 27-year old kiln technician with 32 weeks of experience was burned while lighting a gas fired kiln. There was a blow back when igniting the kiln and the miner received burn injuries to his head and chest. The miner succumbed to his injuries on May 28, 2018.



Best Practices

- Remove flammable and combustible materials from areas prior to cutting, welding, or other hot work. A qualified person should monitor nearby areas where heavy vapors could migrate and accumulate.
- Ventilation systems should be properly designed, installed, and maintained.
- Install fixed monitoring systems with alarms in areas with potential for flammable and other hazardous atmospheres and calibrate and maintain them regularly. The systems should have redundant controls and system readouts located inside and outside of hazardous areas.
- Process equipment and systems should be properly designed and completely installed prior to use.
- Inerting systems should be properly designed, installed, adequately filled, and maintained.
- Do not work in areas where concentrations of vapors can be immediately fatal (Lower Explosive Limit), Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health, or where they exceed permissible exposure limits (PELs) to produce adverse health effects.
- Minimize or eliminate hazards by using appropriate engineering and administrative controls.

This is the 4th fatality reported in calendar year 2018 in metal and nonmetal mining. As of this date in 2017, there were 3 fatalities reported in metal and nonmetal mining. This is the 1st Ignition or Explosion of Gas fatality in 2018. There were no Ignition or Explosion of Gas fatalities during the same period in 2017.

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