2022 MSHA Fatalities

MSHA Stakeholder Meeting
June 28, 2022

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MSHA Enforcement
Accident Classifications

- Machinery: 5
- Powered Haulage: 3
- Fall of Roof/Rib: 3
- Slip or Fall of Person: 2
- Falling, Rolling, or Sliding Rock or Material: 1
- Drowning: 1
Number of Mine Employees

- 19 or less: 4
- 20-49: 1
- 50 or more: 10
Experience at the Mine

- 1 Yr or Less: 8
- >4 Yrs: 4
- >2 to 4 Yrs: 2
- >1 to 2 Yrs: 1
Mine Employees and Contractors

- Mine Employees: 10
- Contractors: 5
1366 Laurel
Fayette, Pennsylvania
January 7, 2022

A front-end loader operator died when a large rock fell from the mine roof, crushing the cab of the front-end loader. When the accident occurred, the victim was loading material from a recently blasted shot.
Best Practices

• Conduct examinations of the back, face, and ribs where miners work and travel.

• Scale the back and ribs before performing work in an area.

• Install suitable ground support where conditions warrant.
A continuous mining machine (CMM) operator was fatally injured when he was pinned between the remote controlled CMM and the coal rib.
Best Practices

• Operate equipment from a safe location. Stay out of “Red Zone” areas including pinch points, the CMM turning radius, and areas close to the ribs.

• Maintain proximity detection systems (PDS) in approved operating condition.
A blaster died when a tree fell from the highwall adjacent to the mine road and struck the cab of the pickup truck that he was driving.
Best Practices

• Examine highwalls frequently. Look for signs of instability such as cracks, sloughing, loose ground, and for fall of material hazards such as large trees and rocks.

• Train all miners to recognize hazardous highwall conditions.

• Clear loose or potentially hazardous material from near the edge of highwalls and slopes, especially when persons will work or travel below.
Ohio County Mine
Marshall, West Virginia
January 14, 2022

A contract laborer received fatal injuries when he fell 27 feet to a concrete surface. At the time of the accident, the contractor was on a belt conveyor in a preparation plant, working to replace a belt conveyor roller.
Best Practices

• Train miners to use fall protection when a fall hazard exists.
• Ensure fall protection is available and properly maintained.
• Provide identifiable and secure anchor points to attach lanyards and lifelines.
Ouachita Rock Portable
Polk, Arkansas
January 26, 2022

A dump truck rolled backward onto a miner while the miner was attempting to troubleshoot a brake issue. The dump truck operator was unaware that the miner was under the truck when he released the parking brake, causing the dump truck to roll backward.
Best Practices

• Block machinery or equipment against hazardous motion before performing repairs or maintenance.

• Mine operators should assure that mobile equipment operators communicate with miners around them before moving the equipment.
While driving downhill, the driver of a concrete mixer truck was fatally injured after he lost control of the truck. The truck overturned and the driver was ejected from the truck. Another miner, who was in the truck, was also ejected and suffered serious injuries.
Best Practices

• Each shift, inspect equipment before placing it into operation. Correct defects that pose a hazard to miners. Tag out mobile equipment that can’t be corrected.

• Always wear seat belts when operating equipment.

• Maintain control of equipment and drive at safe speeds.
A maintenance technician died while driving a lube truck underground. The truck backed over the edge of a stope and fell approximately 60 feet.
Best Practices

• Provide berms, bumper blocks, or similar impeding devices at dumping locations where there is a hazard of overtravel.

• Examine working places before work begins for conditions that may adversely affect safety and health.
Berwind Deep Mine
McDowell, West Virginia
February 28, 2022

A contract miner died when he was crushed between the rib and a single boom face drill. The victim was alongside the drill using the onboard tram lever controls when the accident occurred.
Best Practices

• Maintain equipment in safe operating condition. Immediately remove mobile equipment in unsafe condition from service.

• Determine the proper working position to avoid pinch points and “Red Zone” areas.
A miner was fatally injured when an overhang along the mine rib fell, striking the miner.
Best Practices

• Examine the roof, face, and ribs immediately before starting work in an area where people work and travel, including sound and vibration testing, where applicable.

• Remove overhangs with the continuous mining machine.

• Scale loose roof and ribs from a safe location. Prevent access to hazardous areas until corrective action is taken.
A bulldozer operator died when the bulldozer he was operating went over the edge of the highwall.
Best Practices

• Maintain control of mobile equipment while it is in operation.
• Perform ground condition and workplace examinations.
A miner died when he was struck by a roof fall outby the retreat mining section. The roof fall was approximately 40 feet long, 18 feet wide, and five feet thick.
Best Practices

• Be alert to changing roof conditions, especially during retreat mining.
• Train miners on how to identify hazardous roof and rib conditions.
A heavy equipment operator drowned after the floating pump station he was standing on capsized. At the time of the accident, the miner was assisting a co-worker in connecting a water discharge line.
Best Practices

• Design and use floating platforms in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications.

• Before working on a floating platform:
  • Implement safe work procedures that take into account potential hazards from rain, ice, freezing temperatures, and other environmental conditions.
  • Perform adequate workplace examinations. Check parts that are subject to rust, sun damage, water damage, etc. over long periods of time.

• Wear life jackets where there is danger from falling into water.
A contract miner died when the compactor he was operating overturned.
Best Practices

- Wear seat belts at all times when operating mobile equipment.
- Train miners to perform tasks safely, and to recognize potential hazards.
A contract driller was working outside of his drill when he fell over a 25-foot highwall.
Best Practices

• Wear fall protection where there is a danger of falling.
• Train all personnel to recognize potential hazards from falls and understand procedures to safely perform tasks.
A miner was operating a Caterpillar 336 excavator underground when the excavator slid over an embankment and was engulfed by lime dust.
Best Practices

• Perform adequate workplace examinations and promptly correct hazardous conditions that adversely affect safety and health.

• Train all personnel to recognize potential hazards and understand procedures to safely perform tasks.