



NM BUREAU OF MINE SAFETY

February Newsletter 2010

Zero accidents at mine sites is not only possible, it is the only acceptable goal.

- Terence Foreback, State Mine Inspector



Mine Safety

Mine Fatality History

On February 8, 1923, an explosion occurred at the Stag Canon #1 underground coal mine at Dawson, NM. The blast killed 121 miners. At about 2:20 PM a mine train jumped its track, hit the supporting timbers of the tunnel mouth, and ignited coal dust in the mine, tearing away the heavy concrete work at the mouth of the mine entry.



Damage at portal from explosion



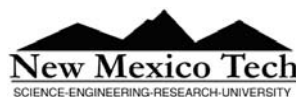
Graves of miners who died in explosion

Let's not forget the accidents of the past as we plan for our fatality free future.

New MSHA Initiative – Rules to Live By

New Mexico operators should educate themselves on MSHA's new initiative. MSHA has studied fatality statistics and will focus enforcement in the areas where fatalities are most prevalent. Assistant Secretary Main's full letter is attached to this document and a PowerPoint discussion of the program is attached to this email. Mr. Main's letter contains this excerpt:

The Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) Fatality Prevention Program, "Rules to Live By," will launch on February 11, 2010. "Rules to Live By" is an initiative to prevent mining fatalities. Through a first phase of industry outreach and education followed by enhanced enforcement beginning on March 15, the focus will be on 24 frequently cited standards (11 in coal



801 Leroy Place ♦ Socorro, New Mexico 87801
Phone: (575) 835-5460 ♦ Fax (575) 835-5430 ♦ www.bmi.state.nm.us

mining and 13 in metal/nonmetal mining) whose violations have caused or contributed to fatal accidents in the mining industry in nine accident categories. The goal of “Rules to Live By” is to reduce deaths and injuries from the targeted standards by having mine operators identify and correct all hazardous conditions and to have MSHA enforcement be directed toward confirming that violations related to these conditions are not present at mines.

The New Mexico Bureau of Mine Safety stands behind this initiative and offers education and training to mine operators to help them exceed the expectations of MSHA’s initiative.

News

New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference

We continue planning our 2010 conference that will be held May 3, 4 and 5. Save the date! Our 2010 theme will be “**Go the Distance**”. A conference brochure that includes registration information for 2010 is attached. We are emphasizing health issues at our conference in 2010. Our next planning session will be held in Socorro, NM on February 18th at 9:00 AM. If you would like to help plan our 2010 conference, give me a call for the meeting location or other information.

Training

The current Training Schedule through February can be found on our web site:

<http://www.bmi.state.nm.us/navTrng.htm>

Please take time to look it over. To schedule a class, please call Chris at (505) 553-1535.

Going the Distance in New Mexico,

Terence Foreback
State Mine Inspector
Bureau of Mine Safety



Dear Coal Mine Operator:

The Mine Safety and Health Administration’s (MSHA) Fatality Prevention Program, “Rules to Live By,” will launch on February 11, 2010. “Rules to Live By” is an initiative to prevent mining fatalities. Through a first phase of industry outreach and education followed by enhanced enforcement beginning on March 15, the focus will be on 24 frequently cited standards (11 in coal mining and 13 in metal/nonmetal mining) whose violations have caused or contributed to fatal accidents in the mining industry in nine accident categories. The goal of “Rules to Live By” is to reduce deaths and injuries from the targeted standards by having mine operators identify and correct all hazardous conditions and to have MSHA enforcement be directed toward confirming that violations related to these conditions are not present at mines.

In 2009, mining fatalities fell to an all-time low for the second straight year – this is a testament to the commitment of miners, mine operators, miners’ representatives, labor and industry organizations, state grantees, members of the mining community, and MSHA personnel. While the mining community achieved a record low number of mining deaths in the United States and has seen a significant decline in fatal mining accidents during the past 10 years, too many miners still lose their lives in preventable accidents. The loss of even one miner causes devastation and pain to the victim’s family and friends. Between 2000 – 2008, 589 miners lost their lives, 300 of them in coal mines, mostly in single and double fatality accidents. MSHA analyzed these fatal accidents to identify conditions and practices that contributed to the deaths, which safety standards were violated, what were the root causes and what abatement practices were applied. MSHA’s analysis identified 24 standards – 11 in coal mining and 13 in metal and nonmetal mining – frequently cited in fatal accident investigations. These violations fell into nine different categories:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Falls from Elevation | Falls of Roof and Rib |
| Operating Mobile Equipment (Surface) | Operating Mobile Equipment (Underground) |
| Maintenance | Lock and Tag Out |
| Struck by Mobile Equipment (Surface) | Struck by Mobile Equipment (Underground) |
| Blocking Against Motion | |

A list of the 11 Coal standards and the conditions for enhanced enforcement is attached to this letter.

All of us – MSHA, mine operators, independent contractors, miners’ representatives and miners – must focus on why these accidents happen and how to prevent them. As part of MSHA’s outreach, the agency will provide operators program and resource information. MSHA will also reach out to engage miners and miners’ representatives during the course of MSHA inspections in the prevention of injuries and fatalities. This includes dissemination of appropriate compliance assistance materials such as engineering suggestions, safety target materials packages, and other information resources to ensure that mine operators and miners have information available to address and eliminate workplace hazards

Beginning March 15, MSHA will also focus more attention and enforcement activity on these 24 standards and accident categories with enhanced enforcement, increased scrutiny for violations of these standards, and instructions to inspectors to carefully evaluate gravity and negligence, consistent with the seriousness of the violation, when citing violations of standards that cause or contribute to mining fatalities.

Compliance with safety and health standards is the responsibility of mine operators. While MSHA supports education and outreach efforts to assist the mining industry in improving mine safety and health, MSHA is charged with ensuring consistent and strict compliance with safety and health standards, and expects operators to foster a culture of zero tolerance for violations in their operations, including violations by independent contractors. Please share this information with all of the independent contractors at your mines.

For more information on Rules to Live By, please visit MSHA's webpage at www.msha.gov.

I believe it is possible to eliminate fatalities in our nation's mining industry, and working together we can accomplish that. I look forward to working with you to make that happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Main". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joseph A. Main
Assistant Secretary for
Mine Safety and Health

Attachment

Coal Priority Standards: Conditions for Enhanced Enforcement

§ 75.202 (includes all subparts) - Roof, face, and ribs shall be supported and no person shall work or travel under unsupported roof

Condition(s) leading to fatalities:

- Work or travel under/ by unsupported roof or rib.
- Incompetent roof and ribs not scaled down.
- Additional roof support not provided.

§ 75.220(a)(1) -Develop and follow approved roof control plan

Condition(s) leading to fatalities:

- Failure to install supplemental support or take additional measures when adverse roof conditions are encountered.
- Body positioning prohibited by plan.
- Unsafe pillar recovery identified.
- Excessive cut depth (deeper than approved cut depth in plan) identified.
- Excessive roof bolt spacing (use PIL No. 108-V-7 for guidance) identified.
- Visible warning devices not provided.
- Wide entries identified.

§ 75.511 - No electrical work shall be performed on energized low, medium, or high-voltage distribution circuits or equipment ...

Condition(s) leading to fatalities:

- Electrical work performed by non-qualified person.
- Failure to lock out and tag disconnecting devices prior to performing electrical work.

§ 75.1403-10(i) - Off-track haulage roadways shall be maintained...

Condition(s) leading to fatalities:

- Haulage roadways not maintained free of bottom irregularities, debris and wet, muddy conditions.

§ 75.1725(a) - Equipment shall be maintained in safe operating condition or removed from service

Condition(s) leading to fatalities:

- Mobile and stationary machinery and equipment not maintained in safe operating condition:
 - Remote control tram interlocks are taped up or otherwise disarmed.
 - Operating controls have been altered or stick unintentionally.
 - Safety interlocks on mobile bridge conveyors defective or fouled with debris.
 - Operator compartment doors or shields removed.

§ 75.1725(c) - No repairs until power off and blocked

Condition(s) leading to fatalities:

- Repairs or maintenance performed on machinery without removing power.
- Machinery not blocked against hazardous motion.
- Hydraulic repairs conducted on pressurized hoses and fittings

§ 77.404(c) - No repairs or maintenance shall be performed until the power is off and machinery is blocked

Condition(s) leading to fatalities:

- Repairs or maintenance performed with power on.
- Machinery not blocked against motion.

§ 77.1607(g) - All persons shall be clear before starting or moving equipment

Condition(s) leading to fatalities:

- Failure to ensure that all persons are clear before starting or moving equipment.

§ 77.1607(n) - Mobile equipment shall not be left unattended unless brakes are set, chocked...

Condition(s) leading to fatalities:

- Brakes not set on unattended mobile equipment.
- Wheels on mobile equipment not blocked or turned into bank/ berm when parked on grade.

§ 77.1710(g) - Safety belts and lines shall be used where there is a danger of falling

Condition(s) leading to fatalities:

- Failure to wear fall protection where danger of falling.

§ 77.1710(i) - Seatbelts shall be worn in a vehicle where there is a danger of overturning and where roll protection is provided

Condition(s) leading to fatalities:

- Failure to wear seatbelts.

Registration Form

Name _____

Company Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address for confirmation and receipt _____

Complete one form per person. Copy form as needed for additional persons.

Registration Fees (includes meals):

Early Conference Fee only \$75 (before 4/19)

Regular Conference Fee \$90 (after 4/19)

Golf Outing \$60

Golf Skill Level:

Never Played Played a Few Times Play Regularly

CPR certification (limit 36) \$25

VLA Tour no additional cost

Spouse Tour Bosque/Camino Real \$20 (if spouse is not registered at conference)

**Registration available through May 4, 2010.
Some special offerings on a first come basis.**

Conference Cancellation Policy:

Cancellation must be received before April 16th for a refund to be issued. A \$15 handling fee will be applied to all cancellations.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

New Mexico Bureau of Mine Safety

MAIL TO:

New Mexico Bureau of Mine Safety
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801
Attn: Mine Safety Conference

Socorro Hotels

*Comfort Inn and Suites 575-838-4400
1259 Frontage Road NW

*Best Western Hotel and Suites 575-838-0556
1100 N. California St.

*Holiday Inn 575-838-4600
1040 N. California St.

*Super 8 Motel 575-835-3988
1121 Frontage Road NW

Howard Johnson 575-835-0276
1009 California Ave.

Econo Lodge 575-835-1500
713 N. California St.

Motel 6 575-835-4300
807 S. U.S. HWY 85

Days Inn 575-835-0230
507 N California St.

*Blocks of rooms at these hotels have been reserved at a special rate. Be sure to mention "Bureau of Mine Safety" when making your reservation to qualify for the special rate.

Go the Distance!

Our conference is for all Partners in Safety, including management, labor, regulators, educators, and supervisors.

The conference is sponsored by the New Mexico mining industry, Mine Safety and Health Administration, and the NM BMS.

New Mexico Bureau of Mine Safety
801 Leroy Place
Socorro, NM 87801
www.nmminesafety.com
Phone: 575-835-5460
Fax: 575-835-5430
E-mail: bmi@admin.nmt.edu

New Mexico Mine Health and Safety 3rd Annual Conference



May 3, 4, and 5, 2010

**Macey Center
New Mexico
Institute of Mining
and Technology
Socorro, NM**



Tuesday, May 4, 2010 — Opening Day

7:00 a.m. — Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. — Spouse Tour — Bosque del Apache and El Camino Real (<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/newmex/bosque/index.html>) (<http://www.nmmonuments.org/inst.php?inst=9>)

\$20.00 fee if not registered for conference (covers lunch and entry fee)

8:00 a.m. — Opening Session: Keynote Speaker — Eddie Lopez (invited)

9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. — Break-out Sessions

Planned Session Topics:

- *Leadership in Safety*
- *Hearing Conservation*
- *Substance Abuse I*
- *Developing your Supervisor*
- *The Future of Occupational Health in Mining*
- *Substance Abuse II—Going The Distance through Policy*

11:45 a.m. — Lunch: *Safety Fun* — Bertha Cassingham

1:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. — Break-out Sessions

Planned Session Topics:

- *Going the Distance - Sustaining a Positive Safety Culture in the 21st Century*
- *Rigging for Safety*
- *Current State of NM Mine Safety Regulation*
- *Safety as a Career, Panel Discussion*
- *Preparing to be Prepared for an Emergency I*
- *Supervisor Responsibilities—Agent of the Operator*

3:45 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. — You Can Go the Distance! - Best Practices

4:30 p.m. — Mineralogical Museum Tour

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. — Cocktail Hour

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. — Dinner and a Guest Speaker

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

7:00 a.m. — Registration and Formal Breakfast

8:00 a.m. — Opening Session: Keynote Speaker — Carl Metzger

9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. — Break-out Sessions

Planned Session Topics:

- *National MS&H Academy Training*
- *Preparing to be Prepared for an Emergency II*
- *Safety Training Ideas*
- *Critical Lift*
- *Fall Arrest and Rescue*

11:45 a.m. — Evaluations and Certificates

12:15 p.m. — Adjourn

THOUGHTS ON THE 2009 NM MINE HEALTH & SAFETY CONFERENCE FROM AN ATTENDEE



Kathy Quick, Chevron Mining, Inc – Questa, NM, attended the 2009 New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference. This was her second trip to attend the conference. As a Safety Professional, Kathy has been to a variety of conferences. She commented, “The 2009 NM Mine Health and Safety Conference allowed me to interact with various agencies and professional people. The variety of topics that were covered gave me the opportunity to select those that suited my needs best. A couple of the things that made this conference so successful for me were the focus on Safety issues without a lot of other topics that could have diluted the conference’s purpose and the availability of many knowledgeable vendors.”

Our conference theme, *Go the Distance*, recognizes that our quest for zero incidents at our mining organizations is not easy to accomplish in a short time frame. As *Partners in Safety*, we must continually *Step Up and Do the Right Thing* for the long haul. The conference will focus on how all groups involved in New Mexico mining must share ideas, experiences and reinforce our common commitment to zero. Demonstration of this commitment requires us to *Go the Distance!*

Monday, May 3, 2010

9:00 a.m. — Registration, Macey Center

Special Activities

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. — Golf at the New Mexico Tech Pro Shop (Lunch at 11:30/ Tee Time at 12:30)

\$60 per player. Cost covers greens fee and cart.

Format — 4-man scramble best ball

Players — Receive customized score cards

Events — Closest to pin and longest drive

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. — CPR Certification
\$25.00 fee

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. — Tour of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) Very Large Array (VLA) Macey Center Entrance (<http://www.vla.nrao.edu>)

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. — Miners’ Dinner
Backstage at the Macey Center. Speaker — Joe Main (invited)