



November 2010 Newsletter

Guest Column

This month's guest column is written by Mark Blue, Operations Manager at Chevron Mining, Inc. Questa Mine. Mark is a mining engineer from the University of Kentucky (can you say basketball) and has extensive engineering and operating expertise in the underground coal and hard rock mining industries. Here is Mark's guest column, and a special thanks for his contribution!



Operational Discipline

Operational discipline means completing every task, the right way, every time. It is achieved through leaders who instill operational discipline, and a workforce that complies with the requirements of Operational Excellence (Chevron's systematic approach to the management of health, environment, safety, reliability and efficiency). Leaders set expectations, and monitor and shape behaviors. The entire workforce, including leaders, recognizes hazards and follows procedures, management of change and stop work authority appropriately.

Sounds good doesn't it. What does it really take?

It takes leadership and great personal discipline at all levels of an organization to eliminate incidents, injuries and fatalities. It requires a personal commitment to shift safety from a priority to a value, something we will not compromise. Also, on an individual level, we must all sharpen our ability to recognize potentially dangerous situations – and then rig-

orously follow our procedures. We must make conscientious use of Hazard Identification Tools, stop-work authority, and all other tools at our disposal, to ensure our safety and the safety of others. We must be personally vigilant, even, *and especially*, when no one is looking. During both economically good times and bad the way we do our work and assign work does not change. A red light should go on in everyone's head when we or a co-worker have the urge to take a shortcut or commit an unsafe act.

There are also opportunities to increase our focus on designing, building, operating and maintaining our facilities to ensure safe operations

We have a lot to be proud of as an industry, but there is much more to do.



Operational discipline requires leaders to step forward and change the culture within their organizations to get the right results the right way, every time. Let's do it so every employee goes home safely to their family after every shift. Most important, let's do it because it's the right thing to do.

Guarding

Recently I sent a report titled [Guarding Conveyor Belts at Metal & Nonmetal Mines](#).

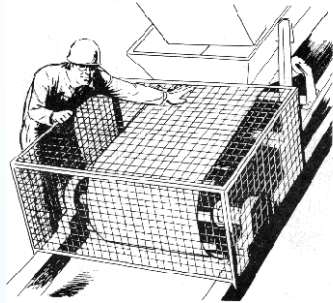
Some of you were unable to open the report so here is the address to pull it off the MSHA website:

<http://www.msha.gov/newsinfo.htm>

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Many of you who were able to open it responded enthusiastically about the information. Due to that response I am working on setting up a 6 hour course in conjunction with the MSHA Mine



Academy and New Mexico OSHA on guarding. In addition to conveyor, screens and crusher guarding, OSHA will give us information on small tool guarding while MSHA will also cover material recently sent in their Program Policy Letter P-10-IV-01 regarding berms or guardrails at elevated truck scales. The PPL can be viewed at:

<http://www.msha.gov/regs/compliance/ppls/2010/PPL10-IV-01.asp>

Sessions will begin at 8 AM and classroom discussions will end at noon. Following lunch there will be a hour or two field session at a nearby mine/plant site. The sessions will be held as follows:

Nov. 1 Deming
Nov. 2 Albuquerque
Nov. 4 Taos

No pre-registration is required for the classes and they are **FREE!**

New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference

We will continue to upgrade our conference program to bring New Mexico's miners information that can be used to make our mines the safest in the nation. A special thanks goes out to our Program Chair, Randy Logsdon for all his efforts towards the great programs we have been able to offer at the



FOCUS 24/7

conference. Please mark your calendars for 2011. Our conference will be held May 2, 3 and 4. The theme for 2011 is ***Focus 24-7***. Our next planning meeting for 2011 will be December 2nd in Socorro. We welcome all who would like to contribute to planning our 2011 event.

Seasonal Safety

It is time to bring out the holiday safety reminders for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have a lot of tool box talk and presentation material for this time of year. Our ***Focus 24-7*** safety theme is particularly relevant for the holidays. This is the time of year for lots of



stress and lots of distractions. This is also good time to begin reminders about winter weather conditions. The San Jaun Mountains in Colorado are already snow covered. Tool box talks on subjects including slip and fall information and winter driving tips are

appropriate. Again, if you need presentation material, please contact us.

Training

The current Training Schedule through November 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.

Let's FOCUS 24/7 on safety in New Mexico!

