



October 2010 Newsletter

Guest Column



This month's guest column is written by Pete Livingstone, Mine Manager at Mosaic Potash. Pete is a mining engineer from New Mexico Tech and has extensive engineering and operating expertise in the potash industry. He has also been very involved in mine rescue both at Mosaic and industry wide in New Mexico. Here is Pete's guest column, and a special thanks goes to Pete for his contribution!

Mine Emergency Preparedness

The mining community has taken unprecedented measures in recent years to manage and control sources of risk to personnel and property. Although the industry continues to make tremendous improvements in assuring the health and safety of its people, recent unfortunate mining disasters teach us that things can and sometimes do go very wrong. For this reason every operator must be well prepared to handle emergency situations to protect our most valuable asset - people. This is the reason we invest substantial resources in our mine rescue teams, but great mine rescue teams are only part of the answer. Any effective, large-scale emergency response requires a unified effort from company management, local, state and federal agencies, as well as partners within the industry. Additionally, established procedures and physical infrastructure must be in place and reliable for effective emergency response.

On September 22nd Mosaic Potash Carlsbad, Inc. conducted a mine emergency response drill (MERD) to train and prepare for such an emergency. The support and participation from the above mentioned groups was over-

whelming. Along with Mosaic staff and mine rescue team members, those actively participating in the drill included personnel from MSHA, the New Mexico Bureau of Mine Safety, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Lordsburg Mining, and BHP Billiton. During the five-hour MERD a surface command center and underground fresh air base were estab-



lished, two mine rescue teams were deployed, and team members physically operated a foam firefighting machine to extinguish a mock fire. Observers

stationed both on surface and underground took note of things that went right as well as potential opportunities for improvement. As Mosaic's mine manager it gives me great comfort to witness the skill, teamwork and professionalism of these mine rescue teams, government officials, and the staff of the participating mining companies. This was a valuable learning experience for all involved and I'd like to thank everyone for their participation. We will continue to improve our emergency preparedness from the lessons learned from this as well as future exercises. I strongly encourage all mining operations, regardless of size, to maintain and exercise a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan.

Guarding

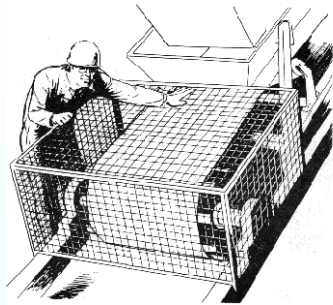
Recently I sent a report titled [Guarding Conveyor Belts at Metal & Nonmetal Mines](#).

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

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website:



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

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. 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 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**

Please let me know what you would like to see covered. More information will be coming on the exact location of the classroom and plant-site locations.

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 Chair, Steve Mills for all his efforts on the conference.



FOCUS 24/7

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 October 7th in Santa Fe. We welcome all who would like to contribute to planning our 2011 event.

Seasonal Safety

We should be thinking ourselves and bringing up in tool box talks some seasonal safety reminders. Halloween is coming up shortly. Please remind everyone of the safety reminders for the trick-or-treaters.

And don't forget about the need for adult trick-or-treaters to consider safety also! We have Halloween presentation material available if you need it. Just give us a call. This is a good time to begin reminders about winter weather conditions (I saw snow on the Jemez Mountains on Sunday morning!). That includes slip and fall information and winter driving tips. Again, if you need presentation material, please contact us.



Training

The current Training Schedule through October 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!