



New Mexico Tech

NEW MEXICO BUREAU OF MINE SAFETY

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September 2010 Newsletter

Guest Column



This month's guest column is written by Steve Mills of Chevron Mining-Questa Mine. Steve has an extensive background in industrial hygiene, in addition to his safety knowledge. Serving New Mexico, Steve is Chair of the NM Mine Health and Safety Conference and New Mexico Mining Association Safety Chair. Here is Steve's guest column, and a special thanks goes to Steve for his contribution!

Can we achieve Zero?

I have been fortunate enough to work in several different industries during my last 30 years of work experience. Much of that time has been devoted to the health and safety profession. As I review those years, I see that considerable changes have occurred in regard to how we view health and safety. Every profession considers itself a "very dangerous" occupation. And every profession has spent its time considering injuries or death as a "normal" part of doing business – strange isn't it? Fortunately all of these industries have moved beyond that philosophy.

We have gone from tracking employee deaths to employee injuries. Lost time accidents are still tracked, but we see benefit to reviewing near miss incidents to get to the root cause before an injury or property damage occurs. We still perform equipment and work area inspections, but understand that behavioral based safety gets us closer to the root of the problem rather than correcting a symptom. Personal protective equipment is still a widely used hazard control method, but we understand that it is

better to engineer out the hazard in the design stage. Management of Change is not only used to engineer projects, but also used when reviewing changes to procedures or chemicals. When we consider health samples to protect employee exposures to various agents we not only look at the obvious exposures, but now evaluate each task to anticipate hazards before they occur. We use the team approach to solving situations and draw in various experiences with multiple points of view. We investigate our incidents in an effort to understand what we can do to prevent a reoccurrence. Our safety philosophy now extends from thinking about safety not only at work, but also at home.

We have progressed a very long way and are doing much better in our approaches to the work we do. The phrase "Zero Incidents" is getting closer to becoming a reality. As we work to understand how we can further reduce the incidents we are realizing that to truly reach zero incidents all of these tools must be used, but more importantly we must reach the point of continually looking out for ourselves as well as each other-to not get offended when others suggest how we may work safely, but evaluate their suggestions. We must move beyond "safety as a priority" and reach "safety as a value". Our priorities continually change with situations, but the values are at the core of each one of us. Is "Zero Incidents" really attainable? I certainly believe that it is! Zero incidents will become a reality when ANY incident is viewed by each of us as unacceptable and we are willing to do those things that it takes to anticipate and avert them.



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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>

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>

We would have 4 classroom hours followed by lunch and then an hour or two at a nearby mine site. We would try to hold this at 3 locations in the state such as Deming, Albuquerque and Taos. The current timeframe is the first week of November.

Please let me know your thoughts on the course and what you would like to see covered. More information will be coming

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 the New Mexico mining industry for their contributions that make this conference so successful. 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.

New Mexico Mining Safety Board Meeting

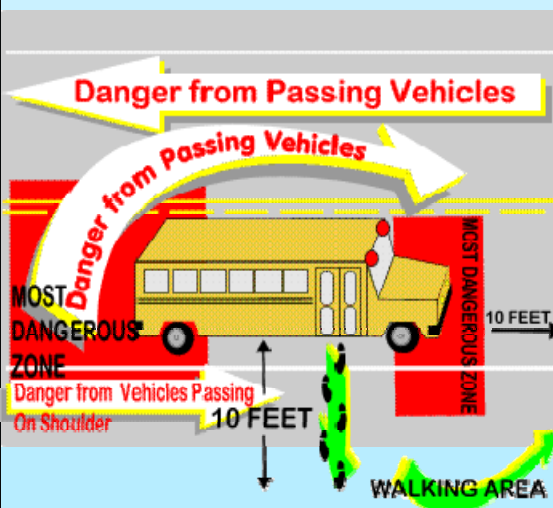
The New Mexico Mining Safety Board (MSB) met on August 26th and approved amendments to 19.6.2 and 19.6.4 NMAC. The amendments affect mine emergency notification by adding an appeal process for SMI decisions and requirements for re-certification of coal mine officials was amended. The amendments can be viewed on the BMS website:

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

School Bus Safety

We all know that school has started. Please watch for our students taking the bus and remind all in tool box talks school buses are not regular vehicles on the highway and are deserving of special precaution. Some best practices:

- Be aware of school zones.



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- Watch for and obey reduced speed limits
- Be especially carefully around parked cars where children may dart into the street.
- Use extra caution in residential areas, especially in the early morning and mid afternoon
- Give school buses extra room. Be prepared for frequent unexpected stops.
- Never pass (from either direction) if the flashing lights are on.
- Our trucks and construction activities will attract attention from children. Always monitor your sites and check carefully around trucks or equipment before moving.

Training

The current Training Schedule through September 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.

