



Enforcement Summary: Operating Mobile Equipment Fatalities in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

From January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2008, 43 fatalities resulted from accidents in which individuals were operating mobile equipment in metal and nonmetal mines. A description of frequently cited standards and the tragic consequences of noncompliance follows below.¹

30 C.F.R. § 56.9101 requires operators to maintain control of the mobile equipment while it is in motion.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- the mobile equipment over-traveled the berm, edge, bank, etc
- the haul trucks they were operating left the roadway.
- they were operating on too great a slope or at too great a speed for the terrain, haulroad, and conditions.

30 C.F.R. § 56.14101a requires service braking systems on mobile equipment to be capable of stopping and holding the mobile equipment, with its typical load on the maximum grades on which it travels. Parking brakes must be capable of holding the equipment with its typical load on the maximum grade it travels. All braking systems must be maintained in functional condition.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- the braking systems were not maintained.
- the service brakes failed to stop the mobile equipment.
- the parking brakes failed to hold the mobile equipment.

30 C.F.R. § 56.14105 requires that repairs or maintenance of machinery or equipment be performed only after the power is off, and the machinery or equipment blocked against hazardous motion. Motion is permitted to the extent that adjustments or testing can be performed, provided that persons are effectively protected from hazardous motion.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- failing to block the lift arms while attempting to replace a hinge pin and the arms lowered.

30 C.F.R. §§ 56.14130(g) and 56.14131(a) requires that seatbelts be provided and worn in certain types of equipment covered by the standards.

Miners were fatally injured when not wearing seatbelts.

¹ In many cases noncompliance with more than one standard contributed to the fatal accidents. These frequently cited standards are not the only standards cited for this accident category.

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30 C.F.R. § 56.14205 prohibits machinery, equipment and tools from being used beyond their design capacity when such use would create a hazard.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- a drill overturned when operating on a slope that exceeded the maximum operating angle of the drill and prevented all of the leveling jacks from making contact with the ground.

30 C.F.R. § 56.16009 requires persons to stay clear of suspended loads.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- suspended loaded fell and struck a miner when a crane overturned.

Training is a key factor in preventing conditions that contribute to fatal accidents. While the standards listed below are not one of the Rules to Live By priority standards, operators and miners are reminded that:

30 C.F.R. Parts 46 and 48 require that miners be provided with site specific hazard, new task, and comprehensive training.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- assigned tasks without the prerequisite new task training.
- working without having received the required new miner or newly hired experienced miner training.
- working without having received the required site specific hazard training.