



Enforcement Summary: Maintenance Fatalities in Coal Mines

From January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2008, 13 fatalities resulted from accidents relating to maintenance in coal mines. A description of frequently cited standards and the tragic consequences of noncompliance follows below.¹

30 C.F.R. § 75.1725(a) requires that mobile and stationary equipment be maintained in a safe operating condition or be removed from service immediately. **30 C.F.R. § 75.1725(c)** prohibits repairs or maintenance on machinery until the power is off and the machinery is blocked against motion, except where machinery motion is necessary to make adjustments.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- the fitting on the hydraulic hose on a shearer broke, causing the hose and fittings to strike the miner.
- attempting to remove a cutter motor torque shaft on a continuous mining machine before the motor had stopped and without blocking against motion.

30 C.F.R. § 77.1607(g) requires that equipment operators be certain, by signal or other means, that all persons are clear before starting or moving equipment.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- a coal car was moved without all persons being clear.
- a hydraulic excavator was operated without all persons being clear.

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.