Southern WV Safety Alert

On September 30, 2005, a non-fatal accident occurred when a sport utility vehicle was struck by a large off-road haulage truck. The haulage truck operator had just completed a lunch break, when the truck was loaded and proceeded to leave the loading area. The haulage truck veered to the left, off of the regularly traveled route, and struck the sport utility vehicle. Upon impact, the smaller vehicle rolled over onto its top and became lodged beneath the front steering jacks of the haulage truck. The impact entrapped two persons within the sport utility vehicle. After approximately one hour, the two injured persons were rescued and transported to a hospital where they were treated and released the following day. There were no mechanical problems found with the haulage truck. The sport utility vehicle was equipped with a whip type antenna and a strobe light to increase its noticeability. Substance abuse is suspected as a possible factor in the cause of the accident.

Preventive Practices:

- ✓ Equipment operators must remain diligent, alert, and cautious when small vehicular traffic is present.
- ✓ A minimum radius should be maintained free of equipment around all passenger vehicles.
- ✓ Always alert equipment operators, and wait for a reply, before entering active work areas.
- ✓ Haulage truck drivers should follow designated routes of travel.

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration