



Enforcement Summary: Operating Mobile Equipment Fatalities in Surface Coal Mines

From January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2008, 27 fatalities resulted from accidents in which individuals were operating mobile equipment in surface coal mines. A description of frequently cited standards and the tragic consequences of noncompliance follows below.¹

30 C.F.R. § 77.1607(g) requires equipment operators to be certain, by signal or other means, that all persons are clear before starting or moving equipment. **30 C.F.R. § 77.1607(n)** prohibits mobile equipment from being left unattended unless the brakes are set; the standard also requires that the wheels are to be turned into a bank or berm, or be blocked, when mobile equipment is parked on a grade.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- a front-end loader was moved without a signal or other means of making certain that persons were clear;
- a truck driver exited the truck that he had parked on a grade without the brakes set, or the wheels turned into the bank or berm or blocked, and was struck by the truck while walking in front of the truck;
- a dozer operator did not engage the parking brake before dismounting the dozer, resulting in him being struck by the dozer.

30 C.F.R. § 77.1710(i) requires that seatbelts be worn in a vehicle where there is a danger of overturning and where rollover protection is provided.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- operators of dozers went over a hill or embankment and were not wearing their 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.