



Enforcement Summary: Struck by Mobile Equipment Fatalities in Surface Coal Mines

From January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2008, 10 fatalities resulted from accidents in which individuals were struck by 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 that equipment operators be certain, by signal or other means, that all persons are clear before starting or moving the equipment. **30 C.F.R. § 77.1607(n)** requires that mobile equipment not be left unattended unless the brakes are set, and when such equipment is parked on a grade, the wheels are to be turned into a bank or berm or be blocked.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- boarding a dragline without first notifying the operator and were struck by a walking shoe;
- a rock truck and pick-up truck were moved without first making sure that the area was clear and a co-worker of the pick-up truck driver was struck;
- a tractor trailer truck, a fuel/lube truck, a grader, and a loader were left unattended on grades without having their respective wheels turned into a bank or berm or blocked, and the brakes released, allowing the vehicles to move unexpectedly and strike nearby miners.

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.