



Enforcement Summary: Blocking Against Motion Fatalities in Coal Mines

From January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2008, 11 fatalities resulted from accidents in which individuals were struck by moving machinery or equipment that was not blocked against motion in coal mines. A description of frequently cited standards and the tragic consequences of noncompliance follows below.¹

30 C.F.R. § 75.1725(c) requires that repairs and maintenance not be performed 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:

- they were performing maintenance on equipment while it was powered and not blocked against motion.

30 C.F.R. § 77.404(c) requires that repairs or maintenance not be performed 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:

- they worked on equipment which had not been blocked against motion, or had been improperly blocked against motion, and sustained crushing injuries when the equipment fell, pivoted, rolled, or shifted unexpectedly.

30 C.F.R. § 77.1607(n) requires that mobile equipment not be left unattended unless the brakes are set and that such equipment's wheels be turned into a bank or berm, or be blocked, when such equipment is parked on a grade.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- they were struck by unattended vehicles that had rolled down grades because they had not been properly parked to prevent motion.

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.