



Enforcement Summary: Blocking Against Motion Fatalities in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

From January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2008, 21 fatalities resulted from accidents in which individuals were struck by moving machinery or equipment that was not blocked against motion in metal and nonmetal mines. A description of frequently cited standards and the tragic consequences of noncompliance follows below.¹

30 C.F.R. § 56.14105 requires that repairs or maintenance of machinery or equipment be performed only after the power is off and the machinery or equipment is blocked against hazardous motion.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- performing maintenance without first blocking machinery or equipment against motion, allowing a component to fall or lower unexpectedly.
- using inadequate materials for blocking.
- failing to block components of process equipment (crushers, feeders, etc) against movement during repair.

30 C.F.R. § 56.14207 requires unattended mobile equipment have the controls placed in the park position and the parking brake, if provided, is set. When parked on a grade, the wheels or tracks are to be either chocked or turned into a bank.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- vehicles were parked on a grade without the park brake set.
- vehicles were parked on a grade without the wheels being chocked.

30 C.F.R. § 56.20011 requires where health or safety hazards exist that are not immediately obvious to employees be barricaded, or warning signs be posted at all approaches. Warning signs must be readily visible, legible, and display the nature of the hazard and any protective action required.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- warning signs of safety hazards not immediately obvious to employees posted and the area was not barricaded.

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.
