



## Enforcement Summary: Maintenance Fatalities in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

From January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2008, 21 fatalities resulted from accidents relating to maintenance in metal and nonmetal mines. A description of frequently cited standards and the tragic consequences of noncompliance follows below.<sup>1</sup>

**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 blocked against hazardous motion. Motion is permitted to the extent that adjustments or testing can be performed, provided that persons are effectively protected from hazardous motion.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- blocking component was dislodged allowing material to fall

**30 C.F.R. § 56.14130(g)** requires seat belts to be worn by the equipment operator except that when operating graders from a standing position, the grader operator shall wear safety lines and a harness in place of a seat belt. This applies to the listed mobile equipment.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- testing a brake system with the equipment operator failing to wear the provided seat belt when an accident occurred.

**30 C.F.R. § 56.14205** prohibits machinery, equipment and tools from being used beyond their design capacity when such use would create a hazard.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- using hydraulic jacks with materials not designed as extensions which unexpectedly moved and struck the victims;
- a crane hoisted a load which was beyond its capacity.

**30 C.F.R. § 56.16009** requires persons to stay clear of suspended loads.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- suspended loaded swung free and struck a maintenance worker.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.