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MSHA releases online compliance tool to assist aggregate mine operators

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Mine Safety and Health Administration, along with the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, today announced the release of a comprehensive compilation of education and training tools for the aggregates industry. “Safety Pro in a Box” is an online repository of compliance assistance materials aimed at mine operators new to the industry, especially small mine operators.

“This resource was designed to provide meaningful assistance to new operators who may be unfamiliar with the safety and health requirements that apply to their operations,” said Joseph A. Main, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. “Since small mine operators often don’t have safety departments like those at larger operations, this information can provide them with the necessary training tools to ensure compliance with MSHA safety and health standards.

“I am especially pleased with the NSSGA’s participation in this effort to compile these materials,” Main added.

The available materials, all of which were produced by MSHA’s National Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beaver, W.Va., include MSHA handbooks on accident/illness reporting procedures and metal/nonmetal inspection procedures; instructor guides for conducting safety and health audits at aggregates operations; on-the-job training modules for sand, gravel and crushed stone mines; an instructor guide for establishing an occupational health program for respirable crystalline silica; and training modules on highwall hazards, personal protective equipment, hearing conservation and workplace exams.

MSHA inspects approximately 9,600 aggregates operations in the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. These include sand, gravel and crushed stone mines.

“Safety Pro in a Box” can be accessed at http://www.msha.gov/safetypro_in_a_box/index.asp.

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