

Mine Safety and Health **Administration**

Metal and Nonmetal
30 CFR § 57.11050

**Escapeways and
refuges**

Metal and Nonmetal
Enforcement of
30 CFR § 57.11050

The purpose of this
presentation is to further clarify
PROGRAM INFORMATION
BULLETIN NO. P09-09

and aid in understanding the compliance
requirements of the standard.

30 CFR § 57.11050 Escapeways and refuges.

The two subparts to the standard address:

57.11050(a) -

- How many escapeways are required
- Escapeway locations
- Refuge when second escapeway to the surface is being developed
- Areas where escapeways are not required

57.11050(b) -

- How many escapeways from working places
- What locations require escapeways
- When a refuge is required

30 CFR § 57.11050(a)

“(a) Every mine shall have two or more separate, properly maintained escapeways to the surface from the lowest levels which are so positioned that damage to one shall not lessen the effectiveness of the others. A method of refuge shall be provided while a second opening to the surface is being developed. A second escapeway is recommended, but not required during the exploration or development of an ore body.”

Subpart (a) and Compliance Requirements

Subpart (a) begins: “Every mine shall have two or more separate, properly maintained escapeways to the surface from the lowest levels which are so positioned that damage to one shall not lessen the effectiveness of the others.”

Compliance requires:

- 1. Every underground mine must have two or more separate escapeways (exceptions will be addressed later in this presentation).**
- 2. The escapeways must connect the lowest levels of the mine to the surface.**
- 3. The “damage to one shall not lessen the effectiveness of the others” clause means the separate escapeways cannot share the same passageway.**

Subpart (a) and Compliance Requirements

Subpart (a) sentence 2 states: “A method of refuge shall be provided while a second opening to the surface is being developed.”

Compliance requires:

- 1. Mines awaiting the establishment of a second escapeway must have a method of refuge which complies with the provision of 30 CFR § 57.11052 Refuge areas.**
- 2. Operators must also be in the process of developing the second escapeway (i.e. activities to develop the second escapeway need to be occurring.)**

Subpart (a) and Compliance Requirements

Subpart (a) sentence 3 states: “A second escapeway is recommended, but not required, during the exploration or development of an ore body.”

Compliance information:

In areas of exploration or development, or areas of exploration or development that are extensions of a currently producing mine, a second escapeway is not required. However, an area of refuge is required for all areas of exploration or development with only one escapeway.

30 CFR § 57.11050(b) Refuges.

“In addition to separate escapeways, a method of refuge shall be provided for every employee who cannot reach the surface from his working place through at least two separate escapeways within a time limit of one hour when using the normal exit method. These refuges must be positioned so that the employee can reach one of them within 30 minutes from the time he leaves his workplace.”

Subpart (b) and Compliance Requirements

Compliance requires:

- Separate escapeways, and a method of refuge provided for every employee who cannot reach the surface from his working place through at least two separate escapeways within one hour when using the normal exit method.**
- When there is only 1 escapeway a refuge must be provided.**
- Refuges must be positioned in the mine wherever necessary to ensure miners can reach one of them within 30 minutes of leaving their work place.**

Subpart (b) and Compliance Requirements

Subpart (b) begins: “In addition to separate escapeways”.

This clause applies to escapeways for each working place. Each working place must have at least two separate escapeways.

***Working place* means any place in or about a mine where work is being performed.**

30 CFR § 57.11050(b)

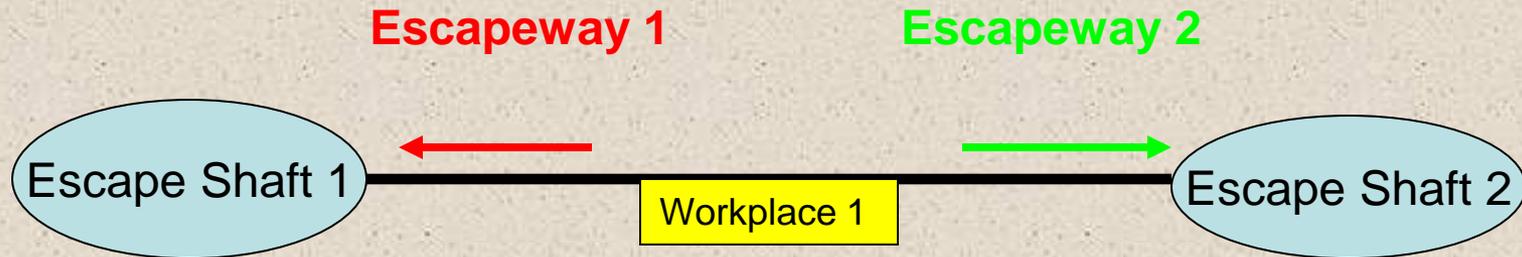
“a method of refuge shall be provided for every employee who cannot reach the surface from his working place through at least two separate escapeways”

This clause sets the criteria for requiring refuge if the miner cannot reach the surface in 1 hour from at least two escapeways. It requires a refuge regardless of the number of escapeways available.

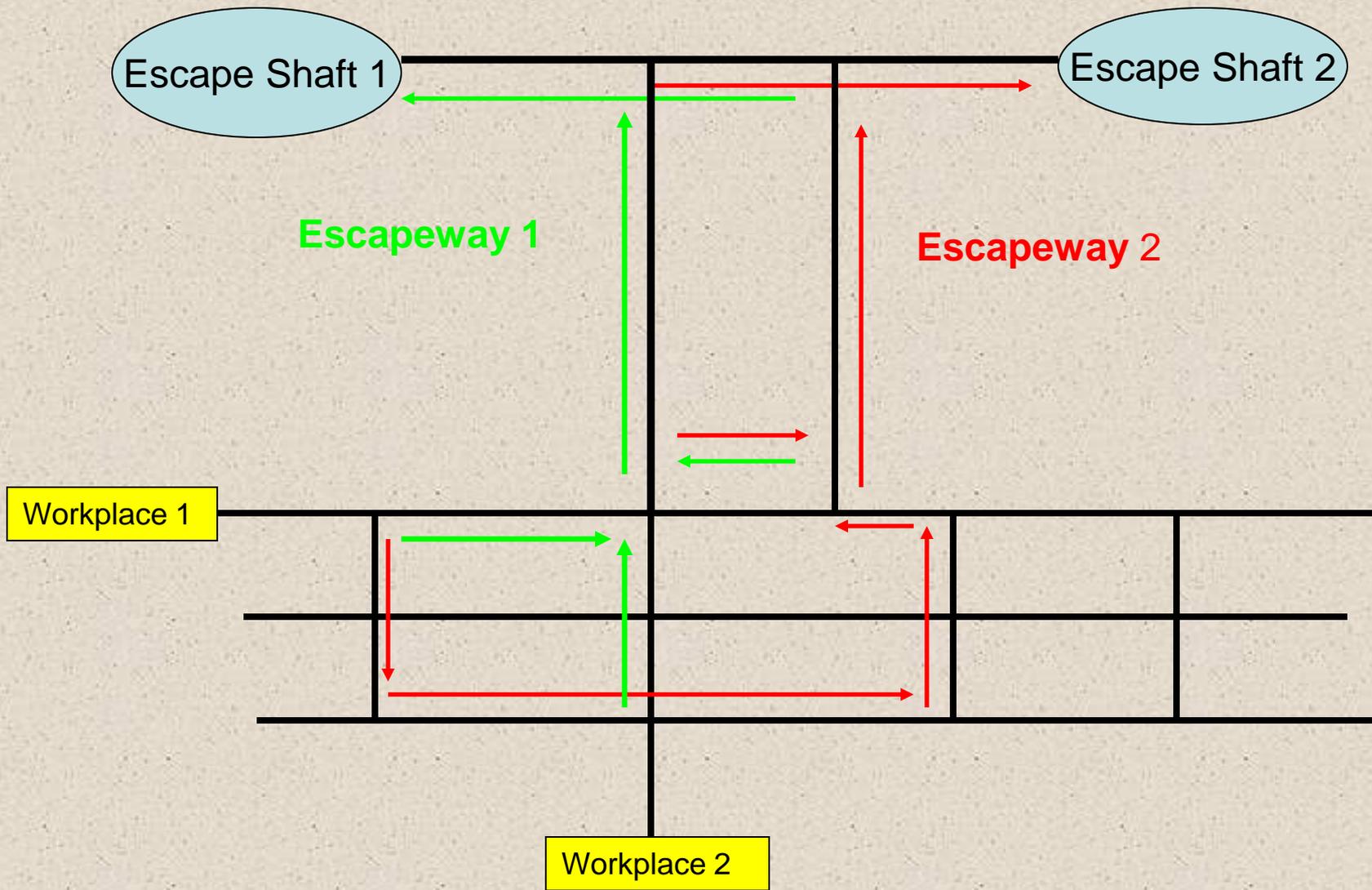
Subpart (b) and Compliance Requirements

**Subpart (b) second sentences states:
“These refuges must be positioned so that the employee can reach one of them within 30 minutes from the time he leaves his workplace.”**

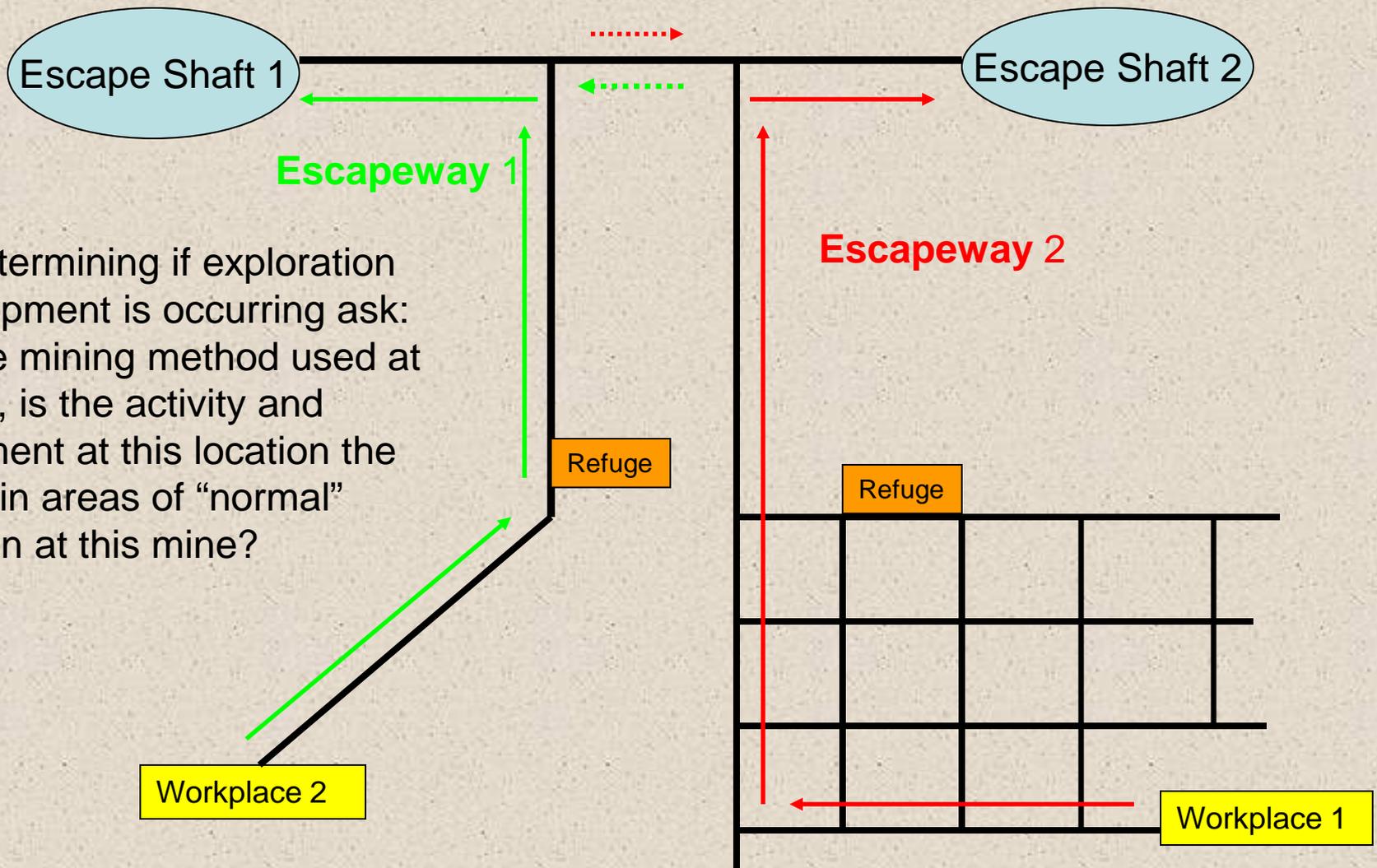
57.11050(a) Escapeways



This configuration of escapeways is in compliance with 57.11050(a) requirement that “damage to one shall not lessen the effectiveness of the others” as the two separate escapeways do not have common passageways.



This mine in compliance with 57.11050(a).



This mine is not in compliance with 57.11050(b).

Workplace 1 is not in compliance, has obvious production mining occurring without a second escapeway.

Workplace 2 is in compliance, it is an area of development with a single escapeway and a refuge.