

30 CFR § 56.20011 - Barricades and warning signs.

Areas where health or safety hazards exist that are not immediately obvious to employees shall be barricaded, or warning signs shall be posted at all approaches. Warning signs shall be readily visible, legible, and display the nature of the hazard and any protective action required.

This standard applies to areas where health or safety hazards exist that are not immediately obvious to employees. Those areas shall be barricaded or readily visible and legible warning signs shall be posted at all approaches. Signs are required to display the nature of the hazard and any protective action required.

The following guidance is provided in the PPM:

56.20011 Barricades and Warning Signs

This mandatory standard is to ensure that barricades are provided or warning signs posted to alert workers and other persons and to prevent them from inadvertently entering areas in which health or safety hazards exist but are not obvious. Examples of health hazards are heat, acids, gases, dusts, noise, and radiation. All areas of a mine or mill should be checked for imperceptible health hazards. Storage facilities, laboratories, dumps, and tailings commonly contain toxic substances.

Warning signs are posted for the purpose of describing particular hazards and indicating precautions to be followed in order to avoid injury and illness.

MSHA does not accept barricade tape to meet the requirements of § 56.20011 because it does not obstruct passage of persons, vehicles or flying materials, as required in 30 CFR § 56.2, Definitions.

Barricaded means obstructed to prevent the passage of persons, vehicles, or flying materials.

The following is a link to a Miner's Safety Tip related to barricades and signs:

http://www.msha.gov/Accident_Prevention/Tips/barricadedanger.htm

Section 56.20011 is one of the Priority Standards under the Rules to Live By initiative, <http://www.msha.gov/focuson/rulestoliveby/rulestoliveby.asp> that began in March 2010. This standard was cited during 13 fatal accident investigations between 2000 and 2008.