Maintenance, Repair and Construction

MSHA 1013 (BP-13)

Common causes of fatalities involving maintenance, repair and construction include electrocutions from failure to de-energize equipment; crushing injuries from using inadequate blocking; and injuries from falls.

Common causes of injuries include lifting heavy objects; slipping and falling off equipment; and pinching or smashing hands and fingers with machinery or tools.

To help prevent accidents miners should:

- **ALWAYS** de-energize equipment and use lockout and tagout procedures before troubleshooting or attempting to make repairs.
- **ALWAYS** block equipment and components before working on, under, or around them. Be sure that blocking is adequate and has a firm, stable base and won't topple or slide.
- **ALWAYS** use safety lines, or other fall protection measures, where there's a danger of falling. Many accidents involve people falling off equipment while performing repairs.
- **ALWAYS** use boots with nonslip soles.
- **ALWAYS** use mechanical lifting devices, wherever possible, while moving heavy or large objects. Get help if you need it.
- **ALWAYS** remove defective equipment from service. In rigging work, be sure to check hooks, chains, and other components for defects before using them.
- **NEVER** work beneath suspended loads.
- **ALWAYS** make sure you have the right tool for the job. Many accidents involve smashed or pinched fingers. Use holding devices to keep your fingers and hands out of harm's way. Be sure to wear eye protection at all times. Don't wear jewelry or loose clothing in the vicinity of operating equipment or power tools.
- **NEVER** take shortcuts, even if you've "gotten away" with them before. The few minutes you would have saved mean nothing if you're involved in an accident.

To help prevent accidents mine operators should:

- Provide training on lockout and tagout procedures.
- Provide proper lockout and tagout locations.
- Require miners to be accountable for following proper lockout and tagout procedures.
- Provide training on safe blocking procedures, and require miners to be accountable for following safe blocking procedures.
- Provide proper blocking materials.
- Provide training on the importance and use of fall protection.
- Provide proper fall protection equipment, and require miners to be accountable for using proper fall protection measures.

Arrive Home Alive

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
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