

Moving Forward with the NE District



DOL / MSHA
Northeast District
Newsletter

Rock-Solid Information for Stakeholders and MSHA Employees

Summer 2011

Volume 1, Issue 2

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The Northeast District Encompasses 13 States & Washington D.C.

Connecticut
Delaware
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont
West Virginia

PACA Spring Thaw Conference



Personnel attend the Spring Thaw PACA meeting.

Two field office supervisors and one district staff member attended the March 1st meeting held at State College, Penn. Kevin Abel, District Safety Specialist, Gary Merwine from Wyomissing, Penn., and Rodney Rice from Warrendale, Penn., both field office supervisors, were in attendance. Kevin participated in a round-table question-and-answer period at the end of the day. Subjects covered included the implementation

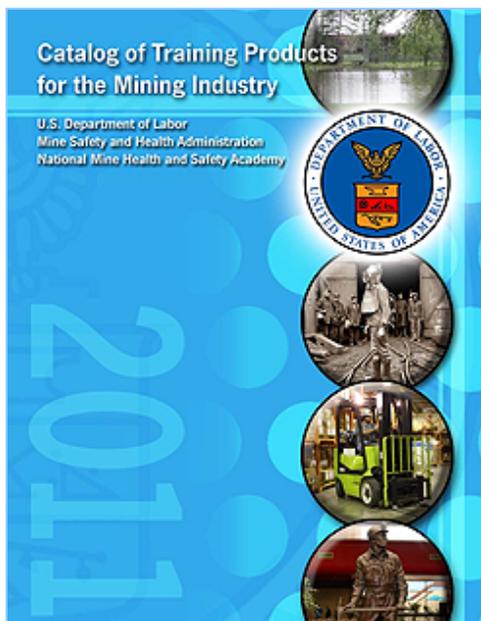
Field Office Contacts

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Warrendale, PA: Rodney Rice: 724-772-2335
Wyomissing, PA: Gary Merwine: 610-372-2761

of 56/57.5002, industrial hygiene basics, supervisor responsibilities, and sources of material for safety talks. The general consensus was that the entire industry continues to improve but there is much room for improvement as it relates to safety in the metal/nonmetal mining industry. Formed in 1982, PACA, Pennsylvania Aggregate and Concrete Association, is the industry's unified voice in Harrisburg, representing more than 200 member companies, large and small, across the



state; PACA represents industries on issues of mining, taxation, transportation, air, water, and other critical regulatory matters before the Pennsylvania General Assembly. PACA monitors legislative issues, informs and alerts its members about current developments, and communicates the industry's point of view to state policy makers. PACA is a member-driven trade association which deals with the issues and problems that can best be resolved through collective rather than individual efforts. PACA works closely with the Penn. Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection, Conservation and Natural Resources and Agriculture, as well as with Penn State University. Want to learn more? Log into the internet at: <http://www.pacaweb.org/>.



New Training Products Catalog

The National Mine Health and Safety Academy publishes the catalog of training products and have published the 2011 version. If interested, contact the academy for your copy so that you can obtain the latest in training products.

HOW TO ORDER FROM THIS CATALOG

This catalog and the items listed in it can be ordered from:

National Mine Health and Safety Academy
Department of Instructional Materials
Printing and Property Management Branch
1301 Airport Road
Beaver, West Virginia 25813-9426

Phone: 304-256-3257

Fax: 304-256-3368

Email: MSHADistributionCenter@dol.gov



MSHA On-line Filing Help Desk

If you need help or are having problems with any of our on-line forms, contact MSHA's Help Desk at: 1-877-778-6055 OR by email at MSHAHelpDesk@dol.gov. Be sure to leave your name and phone number.

Display the U.S. Flag from sunrise to sunset on all days the weather permits, especially on:

2011 Holidays & Observances

New Year's Day, January 1st

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, January 17th

President's Day, February 21st

Easter Sunday, April 24th

Mother's Day, May 8th

Armed Forces Day, May 21st

Memorial Day, May 30th (half-staff until noon)

Flag Day, June 14th

Father's Day, June 19th

Independence Day, July 4th

Labor Day, September 5th

Patriot Day, September 11th

Constitution Day, September 17th

Columbus Day, October 10th

Veteran's Day, November 11th

Thanksgiving Day, November 24th

Christmas Day, December 26th

Election Days

State & Local Holidays

"For love of country, they accepted death."

James A. Garfield, 20th U.S. President

Health & Safety

Compressed Gas Cylinder (CGC) Safety

Website: <http://www.statefundca.com/safety/safetymeeting/SafetyMeetingArticle.aspx?>

Compressed or liquefied gas cylinders are often used to store chemicals for industrial purposes. The compression of the chemicals allows for a large quantity of material to be stored in a relatively small space. Because cylinder contents are under high pressure (up to 2,500 pounds per square inch, or psi), there can be physical and chemical hazards involved with the use of compressed gas cylinders.

Cylinders range in size from table-top lecture bottles to bottles that are almost 5 feet tall and weigh 155 pounds. When in proper working order, cylinders are fitted with valves and regulators to control the release of the contents. When there is a failure of the valve or when the cylinder is damaged or punctured, the pressurized contents can release violently. This sudden release can propel a cylinder up into the air $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, or along the ground up to 30 miles per hour. The energy released may also cause the cylinder to spin, ricochet, or even crash through brick walls. **Uncontrolled releases from gas cylinders can pose a severe physical hazard.**

The contents of compressed gas cylinders can also pose a chemical hazard if they are accidentally released. Gases may be cryogenic, flammable, combustible, explosive, oxidizing, corrosive, toxic, poisonous or inert. The sudden release of these materials can create fire and explosion dangers, worker exposure to toxic or poisonous gases, or even asphyxiation (suffocation) danger if the released gas displaces room air.

In order to use compressed gas cylinders safely, workers should insure that they have the necessary training and information on the proper storage, handling, usage and disposal of gas cylinders. Workers should also read the Material Safety Data Sheet, MSDS, on the chemical components of the gas cylinders to understand the chemical properties, required personal protective equipment, health hazards, appropriate first aid, and proper cleanup procedures.

Gas cylinders should be properly labeled with their contents. The contents should be stenciled on the cylinder or printed on a label. The color of a cylinder is not an indication of what material is in it because color coding is not standardized. When cylinders are emptied, the valve should be closed and capped and the tank should be labeled "empty."

Proper storage of gas cylinders is paramount to safety. Because unsecured cylinders can be easily knocked over, they should be individually secured to a stable object. Chains, straps or cages should be used and should be fixed at approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ the height of the cylinder. Cylinders should be stored in well-ventilated areas away from other incompatible materials, sources of flame or heat, or areas where they may receive damage. Empty and full cylinders should be stored separately. To prevent the main cylinder valve from being damaged or broken, the protective cap should be kept in place whenever the cylinder is not in use.

Cylinders should not be dragged, carried, rolled, or slid across the floor. When transporting cylinders, ensure they are not able to bump into each other. To move a large cylinder, a hand truck should be used. The cylinder should be moved individually and should be secured to the hand truck with the protective cap in place at all times.

To use a gas cylinder, the valves should be cleared of any dust or dirt before attaching the regulator. Some regulators are intended for specific gases and should not be interchanged. Connection fittings should not be forced and safety devices in cylinder valves or regulators should not be altered. Cylinders should be placed with the valve accessible at all times.

When opening the valve to a cylinder, the worker should stand off to the side and open it slowly. **Valves should never be left partly open—they should be opened all the way or closed.** Leaking cylinders should be immediately removed from service and the work environment, if it is safe to do so. Cylinders should be serviced and refilled only by trained and authorized supply contractors.

Follow gas cylinder safety precautions and you won't crack under the pressure.



This article is also available on-line in Spanish at:

<http://www.statefundca.com/safety/safetymeeting/SafetyMeetingArticle.aspx?ArticleID=161>

NE District: Near-Miss Accident



February 23, 2011, 36-04243, Eureka Stone Quarry, Inc.,
Pocono Quarry Plant

One of the mine cranes was lifting a shaft when all of a sudden the shaft slipped out of the crane's hitching, striking the cab of the crane which in turn caused the crane's cab to be crushed. The operator of the crane was able to get out of the cab before the shaft hit but in the process of escaping, he sustained a broken ankle; an ambulance was called out to the mining site and the cab driver was taken to a nearby hospital. This is one of the closest near misses you will ever see. Be sure to double-check rigging and keep miners clear of suspended loads.



Mine Safety & Health Administration Job Screening for:

Metal/Nonmetal Inspector Positions

When: April 9th & 10th, 2011, Saturday and Sunday

Where: MSHA Approval and Certification Center, 765 Technology Drive, Triadelphia, WV
Advance registration through vacancy announcement number DE-11-MSHA-MNM-7/9/11 at: www.doors.dol.gov. Applicants **MUST** apply to the announcement by April 1, 2011 to reserve a space at the test session. Walk-in candidates are also welcome to attend, subject to space availability; bring a completed resume and current photo ID. Registration for walk-ins begins at 7 am and ends when testing begins at 8 am.

Find more info at: www.msha.gov/Inspectors/InspectorsInternProgram.asp or call 724-772-2333,
Mr. Donald Foster, District Manager

Upcoming Training Event

Northern Mine Rescue Association
Regional Mine Rescue Contest

When: August 23—25, 2011

Where: Carmichael, Pennsylvania

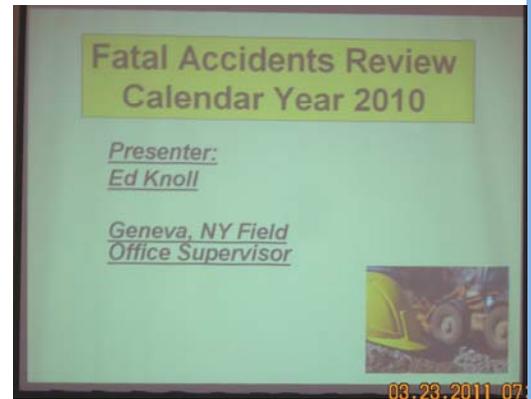
Contact: Steve Allenson at steve_allenson@cargill.com



Look for more information about this event in the next issue of this newsletter.

Spring Thaw in Verona, New York

On March 23rd, the Geneva, New York, field office supervisor, Edward Knoll, attended the Spring Thaw Conference in Verona, NY. This 2-day safety conference had presentations on: electrical, rigging, accident prevention, hazard awareness, lockout–tagout, first aid/CPR, and more. As one of over 30 presenters, Ed gave his presentation about metal/nonmetal fatal accidents in FY 2010. He also discussed CFR standards 56/57.5002 in detail and gave out flyers. The flyers included information on Tips on Dusty Jobs, Silicosis, Lockout/Tagout, Blocking Machinery Against Motion, and Immediately Reportable Accidents. Ed’s phone number is 315-789-0522 or his e-mail is Knoll.Edward@dol.gov if you would like to contact him for a copy of one or more of the flyers or for more info on this conference.



ONE CALL DOES IT ALL!

1-800-746-1553

Immediately reportable accidents and injuries hotline

DOL / MSHA

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NORTHEAST DISTRICT OFFICE, WARRENDALE, PA

We're on the web!

<http://www.msha.gov>

Select District Pages
 under **Quick Links**

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Mother's Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	Armed Forces Day
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	Holiday	31				