



Natural building blocks for quality of life

NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION FACT SHEET

How Underground Aggregates (Stone) Mines Differ from Other Underground Mines

- Mined product is non-combustible, non-flammable.
- No flammable gases such as methane present; MSHA approved (“permissible”) equipment not required in stone mines such that regular automobiles, trucks and loaders can be used.
- Mining methods create large open spaces for access by large equipment; large openings accommodate emergency equipment used by non-mine emergency services.
- More stable mineral formations resulting in stable mine roofs; minimized need for additional roof supports.
- Emergency escape and access easier because of large spaces in mine.
- Most are only a few hundred feet deep; horizontal tunnel access permits large mobile equipment to easily enter mine.
- During an emergency, more equipment choices available to mine operators because reduced hazard permits use of “unapproved” equipment.
- Minimal need for certified mine rescue teams because local fire departments or emergency services are able to respond.
- Due to size of large open spaces and mining methods, mechanical mine ventilation usually not required or is minimal; natural ventilation works well.

