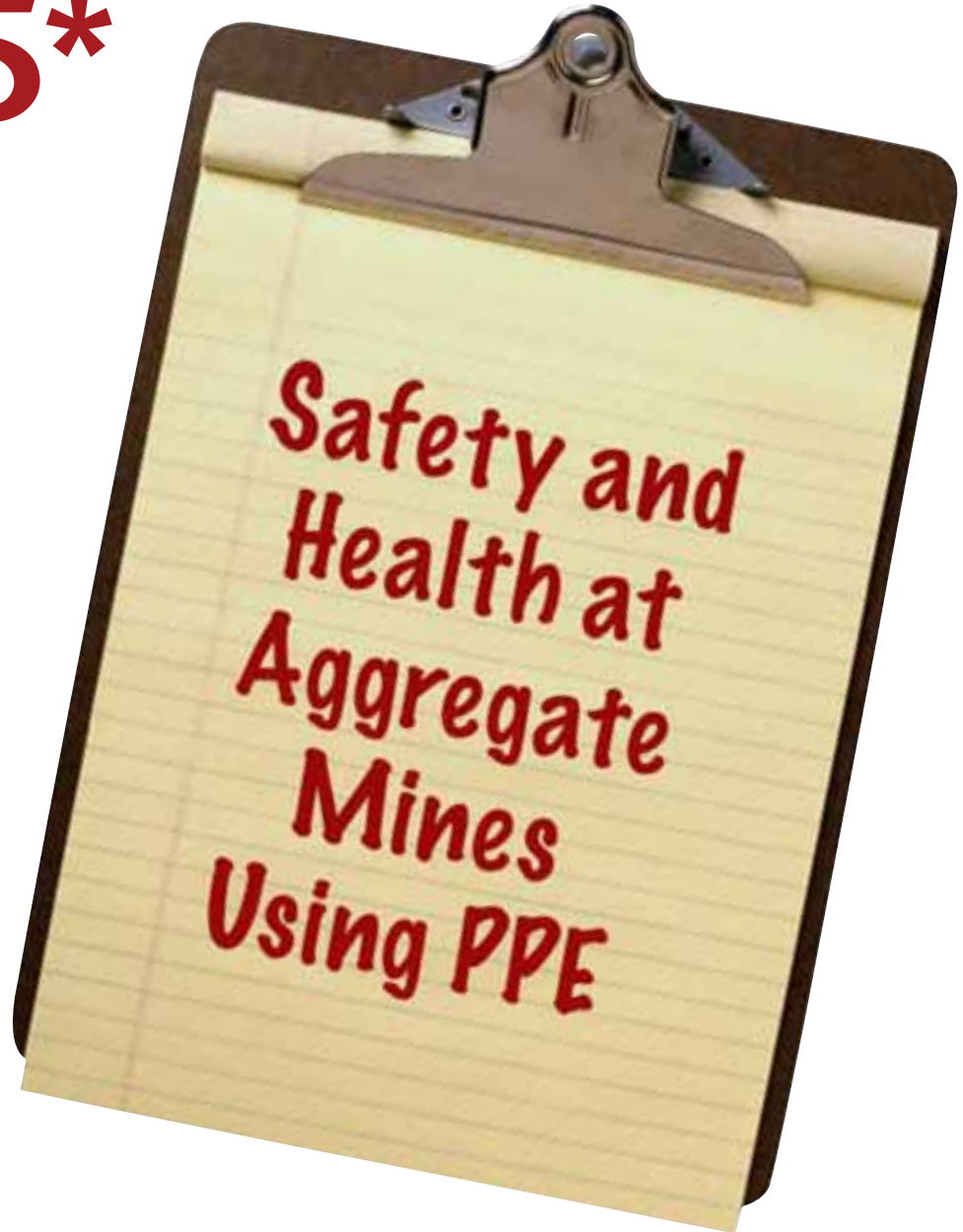


# Metal and Nonmetal Fatality Excerpts – 2005\*

**A** few statistics from 2005 point out the need to use seat belts and other personal protective equipment (PPE) and to make sure that all miners are trained in good safety practices. On the back of this page, you will find the MSHA Alert on seat belt use. See the information on personal protective equipment requirements below for assistance with your PPE program.

- 13 powered haulage (rolling stock) fatalities
  - nine of these accidents involved seat belts
- 46% (16 of the 35) of the fatalities involved miners with two years or less experience
  - average age of the 16 miners was 37 years
  - average mining experience of the 16 miners was 0.82 years
- 18 fatalities were maintenance related
- In four of the fatalities, fall protection was not worn by the victim
- In two of the fatalities, life vests were not worn by the victim



\* As of 12/31/05



**NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION**



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# SEAT BELT ALERT

September 15, 2005

Ten miners have been fatally injured in accidents involving mobile equipment this year in the metal/nonmetal sector of the mining industry. Investigators found that the victims in seven of the fatalities were not wearing their seat belts. These deaths might have been prevented if the victims had been restrained and protected by a seat belt. MSHA personnel will focus on seat belt usage during inspections.

## Best Practices

- Always wear a seat belt when operating mobile equipment.
- Maintain seat belts in good operating condition.
- Never attempt to jump from a moving truck or machine.
- Conduct pre-operational checks to identify any defects that may affect the safe operation of equipment before it is placed into service. Maintain all braking systems in good operating condition.
- Operate mobile equipment at an appropriate speed for the conditions of the roadway, grade, visibility and traffic.
- Thoroughly review the operator's manual during mobile equipment operator training and stress the importance of seat belt usage.
- Management should routinely observe and evaluate seat belt use by their miners.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

In order to save lives, the wearing of personal protective equipment in the mining industry is a must. MSHA regulations have spelled out the following minimum requirements. Be sure your employees are covered, trained and using the personal protective equipment properly!

**Hard Hats:** All persons shall wear suitable hard hats when in or around a mine or plant where falling objects may create a hazard. (MSHA Section 56/57.15002)

**Protective Footwear:** All persons shall wear suitable protective footwear when in or around an area of a mine or plant where a hazard exists which could cause an injury to the feet (MSHA Section 56/57.15003)

**Eye Protection:** All persons shall wear safety glasses, goggles, or face shields or other suitable protective devices when in or around an area of a mine or plant where a hazard exists which could cause injury to unprotected eyes. (MSHA Section 56/57.15005)

**Eye protection when operating grinding wheels.** Face shields or goggles in good condition shall be worn when operating a grinding wheel (MSHA Section 56/57.15014)

## Contributed by:

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**Safety Belts/Lines/Fall protection:** ...shall be worn when persons work where there is danger of falling: a second person shall tend the lifeline when bins, tanks, or other dangerous areas are entered (MSHA Section 56/57.15005)

**Protective equipment and clothing for hazards and irritants:** Special protective equipment and special protective clothing shall be provided, maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition and used whenever hazards of process or environmental, chemical hazards, radiological hazards, or mechanical irritants are encountered in a manner capable of causing injury or impairment. (MSHA Section 56/57.15006)

**Protective equipment or clothing for welding, cutting, or working with molten metal.** Protective clothing or equipment and face shields or goggles shall be worn when welding, cutting, or working with molten metal (MSHA Section 56/57.15007)

**Hearing Protectors.** Any device or material, capable of being worn on the head or in the ear canal, sold wholly or in part on the basis of its ability to reduce the level of sound entering the ear, and which has a scientifically accepted indicator of noise reduction level. (MSHA Section 62.101 Definitions). The operator is strongly encouraged to review 30 CFR Part 62 to ensure compliance with the Occupational Noise Exposure standard for its miners.

**For surface mines only: Life jackets and belts.** Life jackets or belts shall be worn where there is danger from falling into water. (MSHA Section 56.15020)

**For underground only: Provisions and maintenance of self-rescue devices.** Each operator shall maintain self-rescue devices in good condition. A one-hour self-rescue device approved by the MSHA and NIOSH under 42 CFR Part 84 shall be made available by the operator to all personnel underground. (MSHA Section 57.15030)

**Seat Belts for Haulage Trucks.** Seat belts shall be provided and worn in haul trucks. (MSHA Section 56/57.14131)