



# RIP & SHARE SAFETY HANDOUT

**T**he U.S. Department of Labor’s Mine Safety and Health Administration wants to take this opportunity to warn operators and miners at surface and underground mines of the hazards that may be brought on in the work environment due to cold weather. Records indicate that a large number of fatal mining accidents have occurred during the winter months.

During winter, low barometric pressures and low humidity, coupled with the seasonal drying of many areas in metal and nonmetal mines, have contributed to conditions that have become hazardous to miners.

Limited visibility during inclement weather, slippery walkways and road ways, vehicle fumes in enclosed cabs, confined spaces and the freezing and thawing of high walls all contribute to hazardous conditions that should be addressed during winter months.

Mine operators and miners are encouraged to conduct frequent mine examinations and equipment inspections, especially during the freezing and thawing cycles, when unexpected changes can occur during a shift.

MSHA wants to remind miners and operators in the winter months to be alert to the hazards that cold weather brings with it. Winter Hazards Best Practices include:

- Remove snow and apply sand to roads;
- Keep walkways free of snow, mud and ice;
- Apply paint/sand mix to walkways, handrails and equipment ladders;
- Thoroughly examine high walls;
- Examine exhaust systems for leaks;
- Ensure ventilation is adequate;
- Wear appropriate PPE and dress warmly;
- Stay indoors as much as possible;
- Keep water and food with you; and
- If you have to go outside, tell someone where you are going, and when you should be back.



## NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION



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Please clip here, sign and keep a copy for your company. Fax to Joe Casper, NSSGA’s Vice President for Safety Services at 703-525-7782