



RIP & SHARE

Maintenance and Repair Work at Metal and Nonmetal Mines

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR WORK usually involves multiple activities taking place at the same time. More often than not, employees performing these types of duties work alone. When performing maintenance or repair work, keep these practices in mind:

- Before you start the job, identify hazards in the area.
- Eliminate or mitigate identified hazards.
- Follow established procedures for the tasks to be performed.
- If you need help, ask for it.
- Use and wear all required personal protective equipment
- Communicate to other employees working in the area what you will be doing.
- Stay alert to what is going on around you.

Maintenance Fatalities in Metal and Nonmetal Mines – Enforcement Summary

From Jan. 1, 2000, through Dec. 31, 2008, 21 fatalities resulted from accidents relating to maintenance in metal and nonmetal mines. A description of frequently cited standards and the tragic consequences of noncompliance follows.¹

30 C.F.R. § 56.14105 requires that repairs or maintenance of machinery or equipment be performed only after the power is off, and the machinery or equipment is blocked against hazardous motion. Motion is permitted to the extent that adjustments or testing can be performed, provided that persons are effectively protected from hazardous motion.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- blocking component was dislodged, allowing material to fall

30 C.F.R. § 56.14130(g) requires seat belts to be worn by the equipment operator except that when operating graders from a standing position, the grader operator shall wear safety lines and a harness in place of a seat belt. This applies to the listed mobile equipment.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- testing a brake system with the equipment operator failing to wear the provided seat belt when an accident occurred

30 C.F.R. § 56.14205 prohibits machinery, equipment and tools from being used beyond their design capacity when such use would create a hazard.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- using hydraulic jacks with materials not designed as extensions which unexpectedly moved and struck the victims
- a crane hoisted a load that was beyond its capacity

30 C.F.R. § 56.16009 requires persons to stay clear of suspended loads.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- suspended load swung free and struck a maintenance worker

¹ In many cases noncompliance with more than one standard contributed to the fatal accidents. These frequently cited standards are not the only standards cited for this accident category.

