

Haulage for Contractors

Best Practice Series
BP-23



Contractors performing services or construction at a mine fall under the jurisdiction of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act). This means that contractors must comply with the Mine Act and the safety and health standards contained in Title 30 Code of Federal Regulations (30 CFR).

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is the Federal agency which administers the provisions of the Mine Act and enforces its requirements. MSHA issues citations and orders to contractors for violating safety and health laws. Each violation cited will result in the assessment of a civil penalty.

Contractors who perform work on mine property must be informed of hazards which exist on the property and are specific to the mine's operations.

Some of the contractors and contractor employees who have been injured and killed while working on mine property have been truck drivers.

Remember to:

- Always obtain directions to the work area and information about mine hazards.
- Stay in your truck.
- Always wear your seat belt.

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- Know and obey mine traffic rules.
- Sound horns before moving.
- Pay attention to blind spots.

The following safety tips are designed to help you operate haulage vehicles more safely. These items are generic and applicable to most types of mining, and are appropriate wherever trucks operate.

GENERAL SAFETY

- ✓ **ALWAYS** stay in your vehicle's cab. That's the safest place to be, and where other equipment operators expect to find you.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** perform pre-operation safety checks on equipment.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** report any unsafe conditions immediately, and remove defective equipment from service.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** wear appropriate protective clothing and equipment.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** wear your seat belt. Many drivers have been killed or injured attempting to jump from the vehicle's cab. Bouncing against the inside of the cab can kill you, too. Remember, *seat belts save lives!*
- ✓ **ALWAYS** follow all safety rules and procedures – short cuts can kill. Mine properties often have unusual traffic patterns and right-of-way rules.

TIPS TO HELP PREVENT ACCIDENTS

- ✓ **ALWAYS** drive defensively and watch out for other miners and moving equipment. Pay particular attention at railroad crossings. Trains can run at any time.

- ✓ **ALWAYS** operate your vehicle within safe speed limits, and conditions existing at the mine. Consider factors such as road conditions, grades, traffic, weather and visibility. It's critical for you to maintain speed and control of your vehicle at all times.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** pay attention to blind spots. Most mining equipment has blind spots. If you can't see the equipment operator, then the operator can't see you.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** signal before moving. Check around your vehicle and sound your horn before starting or moving.
- ✓ **NEVER** work beneath suspended loads.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** consider hazards associated with stockpiles. A harmless looking stockpile can collapse unexpectedly and bury you alive. Never get between your vehicle and a stockpile. **Remember** – stay in your truck!
- ✓ **ALWAYS** watch out for overhead power lines and obstructions. Make sure your truck is safely clear before raising the truck bed or using a tarping mechanism.
- ✓ **ALWAYS** park properly. If you've got to park your vehicle on a grade, make sure you set the parking brake, and always chock the wheels or turn them into a bank.
- ✓ **NEVER** risk a fall. If you need to climb on your truck, be sure to maintain three points of contact, and make use of fall protection and platforms whenever possible.

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