Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association

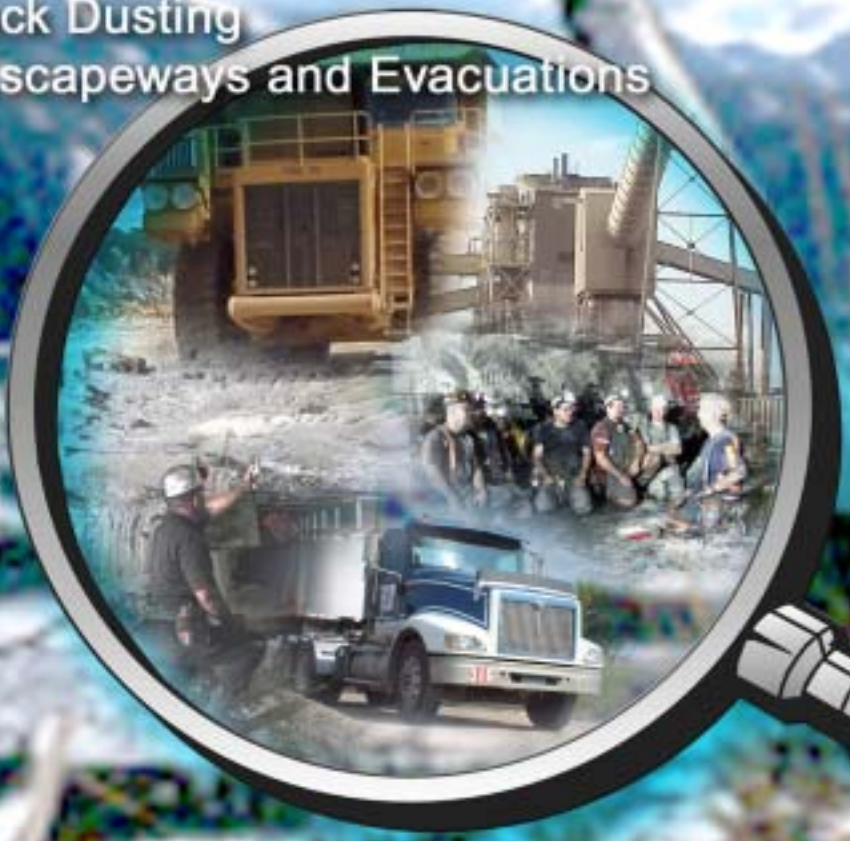
Bulletin

November/December 2003

Time to be Safe!

WINTER ALERT

- Mine Examinations
- Ventilation
- Rock Dusting
- Escapeways and Evacuations



Focus on "Winter Alert" Exams

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Bulletin contains safety articles on a variety of subjects: fatal accident abstracts, studies, posters, and other health and safety-related topics. This information is provided free of charge and is designed to assist in presentations of groups of mine and plant workers during on-the-job safety meetings. For more information, visit the MSHA Home Page at www.msha.gov.

Please Note: The views and conclusions expressed in Bulletin articles are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing official policy or, in the case of a product, represent endorsement by the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

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Feature story:

MSHA Urges Heightened Awareness During Colder Months

The Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) reminds miners and mine operators of the increased hazards that colder weather creates at both underground and surface mines. MSHA's Winter Alert campaign, which runs annually from October through March, emphasizes increased vigilance and adherence to safety principles during the colder months of the year.

"Miners working underground need to have a heightened awareness of their surroundings as we head into cooler temperatures," said Dave D. Lauriski, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health. "Historically, most mine explosions have occurred in the wintertime, but we hope that heightened awareness will help bring miners home safe every day during this time. Let's all be mindful of the additional potential hazards that accompany the change of season."

The MSHA campaign theme, "Focus on Examinations" stresses the importance of conducting thorough examinations in order to prevent coal mine ignitions and explosions. A newly released publication titled "Don't Let Winter Put You on Ice" addresses hazards specific to surface facilities and prep plants.

All coal mines contain methane and when the barometric pressure drops during colder weather, methane can migrate more easily into the mine atmosphere, increasing the risk of an explosion. Furthermore, dry winter air results in drier conditions underground. This makes coal dust more likely to get suspended in the mine atmosphere, which creates a

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greater potential for a mine explosion. Limited visibility, slippery walkways and freezing and thawing highwalls also contribute to potential mishaps during the winter months.

Throughout the Winter Alert campaign, mine safety and health specialists will regularly visit mines around the country to emphasize the importance of awareness about the changing conditions that take place during the winter months. They will distribute decals and posters displaying MSHA's safety messages about the importance of mine examinations at underground mines and dealing with winter hazards at surface operations, along with materials that focus on best practices for performing miners' jobs. They also will provide compliance assistance in developing solutions to health and safety problems that crop up during the colder months.

For further information visit MSHA's website at www.dol.msha.gov

If Safety Is Our Value, We Need to Value Safety

By David T. Couillard

Achieving safe production requires everyone at the work site to follow the often repeated instruction, “If it’s not safe, don’t do it.” Whenever there’s a serious accident, we are reminded that sometimes we fail to heed that advice. This year, people have paid with their lives because of actions such as working on equipment without de-energizing and locking out power circuits, standing under suspended loads, and operating a scraper too close to the edge of a bank while not wearing a seat belt.

Several of the victims had many years of experience and some of them were long time supervisors, so it is unlikely that they made their fatal mistakes due to ignorance. While they may have heard or read the phrase, “Safety is a Value,” something caused them, at a critical moment, to value risk-taking more.

All of us are vulnerable to taking chances because we are the products of a culture that honors the bold and the brave: entrepreneurs, soldiers, explorers, superstars of sports and action movies. Heroes aren’t wimps, and there is something wimpy about the safety specialist’s nagging reminders to follow rules that seem to make it harder for us to get our work done.

But then, tragedy strikes. A space shuttle blows up, killing seven astronauts; investigators blame “Go Fever” at NASA. A beloved, world famous, hockey coach dies after being thrown from his van in a rollover accident; troopers at the scene report the coach had neglected to buckle his seat belt. A popular politician who has joked about his tendency to drive too fast speeds through a stop sign on a country highway; his car collides with a motorcycle and the cyclist is killed.

You realize you left a wrench at the top of a rail car. You just took off your safety harness, and your lunch break was supposed to start ten minutes ago. You decide to – what? Values lead to actions that become habits that lead to consequences, for good or ill. If we value safety, we will make safe choices. If we do not value safety, even if we say we do, our choices will betray us, sooner or later. Whether or not we’re around to face the consequences of unsafe choices, others will be.

So, if it’s not safe, don’t do it. Someone expects you home today.

Power Tool Safety

By Steve Hoyle

Lots of us use power tools on the job and at home. Power tools can make our tasks easier and save us time, but they can also be very dangerous. Studies show that misuse of power tools can lead to loss of eyes or vision, severed fingers, tendons or arteries, broken bones, cuts or puncture wounds, infection from wounds, pinches, electrocutions, and ergonomic injuries.

What can you do to protect yourself while working with power tools?

Perform a safety check before you start. Inspect any power tool before you use it. Make sure that all guards and safety devices such as automatic brakes are in place. Look to see if the tool is clean and in working order.

Examine the cord to see if it's frayed, has loose ground connections or a faulty plug.

Look for cracks in the casing and check screws, nuts, bolts and moving parts to make sure they are tightened. See if there are other potential problems such as dull, bent, broken or warped blades and cutters. Replace them before you use the power tool.

Remove from service any damaged or malfunctioning tools, and report the situation to your supervisor. Faulty tools need to be repaired according to manufacturer's specifications; this is not a do-it-yourself task.

Now check your clothing. You don't want to wear loose fitting shirts, pants or coveralls when working with power tools as they can become caught in moving parts. You don't want to wear jewelry such as rings or chains for the same reason. If you have long hair, tie it up out of the way. Nonslip footwear is the best, and you certainly don't want to wear open-toed shoes, sandals or canvas shoes while using a power tool.

What about personal protective equipment (PPE)? Do you have all the PPE you need? Is it in working order? At a minimum you will need safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields. Certain jobs may require that you use a dust mask or hearing protection. Is there a fully stocked first aid kit handy?

Always follow your mine's established safe work procedures. Using PPE can save you from serious injury or worse.

Look at your work area. Take time to make sure that the area is clean, well-lighted, and dry. You never want to use power tools in damp or wet environments because of potential electrocution hazards.

You don't want flying chips or pieces to start a fire. Did you remember to check to see that there are no combustible materials such as scraps, rags, solvents or sawdust where you'll be working? Is there a fire extinguisher (of the correct type) nearby? Is it charged? Do you know how to use it?

You have already looked at the power cord, but what if your job requires you to use one (or more) extension cords?

Take time to check the extension cords. Are they cracked or frayed? Are the plugs loose? Remember, if a cord has a three-pronged plug, make sure it's plugged into a three-pronged outlet. While you're at it, did you make sure that the cord's rated correctly for the job? You don't want to use indoor-rated cords on outside jobs.

Here's an excerpt from an MSHA accident report:

"A laborer was fatally injured when he contacted the energized chuck of a hand-held drill. The building where the accident occurred was under construction and was not yet provided with electricity. A 150-foot extension cable, reportedly made at the job site, was used to provide electricity to the hand-held drill. The ground circuit in the extension cable was disconnected in three places and a phase-to-ground fault was found approximately 45 feet from the end of the cable. The ground circuit in the cable was continuous from the fault to the drill. The victim was sitting on a set of metal steps which were grounded to earth through the metal structure of the building. When the victim contacted the drill chuck, fault current passed through his hand and body to the grounded metal steps."

Are cords arranged so you won't get tangled in them or trip over them while you are working?

Set up the job correctly for the tool you are going to use. The manufacturer's manual will tell you what you need to know for safe setup, but here are some general tips.

Securely clamp the workpiece to a table or other solid surface with a C-clamp or with a vise.

Never drill, shape or saw material that's not firmly secured.

If you are going to saw a board between two supports, cantilever the board over the outside of one support. This will keep the saw from binding or kicking back as the board drops.

Pay attention to your setup if you are going to be drilling. Be sure that you are drilling into a secure block of scrap wood or into a clear space.

Correctly carry the power tool to the work site. Walk, keep the blade down, and get help if you need it. Never carry a power tool by its cord. Falling tools are dangerous, so never carry a heavy power tool up or down a ladder. If you are working on a ladder or scaffold, rest the tool in a bin attached to the ladder or on a flat surface.

Make sure the tool's power switch is "off" before you plug it in. Don't start a power tool when it's in contact with the workpiece. Be sure the tool is "up to speed" and running right before you begin.

Use both hands when working. Keep your hands away from all moving parts, and never use your hands to clear away scraps. Let the tool do the work – be

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careful not to force it or to exceed its design limits. Cut away from your body. Never overreach – you could slip and either land on the power tool or have it land on you. Pay attention to what you are doing – don't look up or away – a moment's distraction or taking a shortcut could lead to disaster.

Match the tool to the job. Never modify or use a tool or accessory for something other than its intended purpose. Don't try and bluff your way through. If in doubt, check the manual or contact an expert in tool use for help.

Turn the tool "off," unplug it, and make sure it has stopped running before freeing it if it stalls or jams. Do not try and force the tool or restart it if it's caught in the workpiece.

Turn the tool "off," unplug it and make sure it has stopped running if you need to make an adjustment or clean the tool. The same rule applies if you have to adjust or change a bit, blade or accessory.

O.K., your job is done. What now? Take care not to unplug a tool by pulling on its cord. Be sure the tool is "off" and has stopped running, then grasp the plug to disconnect it. Put all tools and power cords back where they belong when you are done - tools and power cords left lying around are slip and fall hazards. Don't wrap power cords around tools when you store them.

What about cordless tools? These are very popular because they are portable, but they are just as dangerous as "corded" tools. Just about all of the safety tips we've mentioned so far apply to both corded and cordless tools, but there are some additional concerns related to cordless tools. Let's check these out.

Be careful: a cordless tool can operate anytime its power switch is turned "on."

Charging safety is a big consideration with a cordless power tool, whether it's self-contained or runs off a battery pack.

Use the charging unit that came with the tool. Don't mix charging units and tools. Take care to follow the manufacturer's instructions when recharging a cordless device. Recharge tools in a dry area that's kept free of combustible materials.

Return the tool and charger to an authorized service center for repairs if they do not work properly. Don't try and fix it yourself.

Some cordless tools are powered by battery packs. You already know not to mix charging units, but what else should you know about battery pack safety?

Store battery packs in a dry place away from wires, nails, coins or other pieces of metal. Be careful not to short circuit the battery pack. Never touch conductive material to the battery pack's terminals.

Keep your battery packs away from temperature extremes (No higher than 110 degrees F. or lower than -20 degrees F.) Don't throw a damaged or worn out battery pack into a fire – it can explode.

Some devices use nickel cadmium (NICAD) batteries. Observe local requirements for their disposal or recycling.

Here is a summary of what we have covered.

These safety practices apply to both corded and cordless power tools.

ALWAYS

- Inspect a power tool before using it to make sure it's clean and in working order – look for frayed cords, cracks, dull blades, missing guards, etc.
- Remove damaged or malfunctioning tools from service – report unsafe power tools to your supervisor.
- Carry tools correctly – keep the cutting edge down.
- Use a power tool for its intended purpose.
- Use the right extension cord for the job. If the cord has a three-pronged plug make sure its plugged into a three-pronged outlet.
- Be sure the tool's power switch is "off" before you plug it in.

- Wear safety goggles or safety glasses with side shields when using a power tool.
- Use a dust mask where necessary.
- Wear hearing protection where necessary.
- Make sure your work area is clean, well-lighted and free of combustible materials before you start.
- Set up the job correctly for the tool you're going to use.
- Turn the power tool "off" and unplug it before making adjustments or changing accessories.
- Grip the power tool firmly – use both hands.
- Keep your hands away from moving parts
- Cut away from your body.
- Repair tools according to manufacturer's specifications.

NEVER

- Use tools that appear to be damaged.
- Use power tools that have dull, bent, broken or warped blades or cutters.
- Remove guards or safety appliances from a power tool.
- Wear loose-fitting clothing when using power tools.
- Wear jewelry when using power tools.
- Use power tools in wet or damp environments.
- Use indoor-rated extension cords outside.
- Modify or use a tool or accessory for something other than its intended purpose.
- Rush through a job – shortcuts or distractions can hurt or kill you!
- Overreach when using a power tool.
- Leave tools and cords lying around. Put them back where they belong when you are finished!

These safety tips apply to cordless tools.

ALWAYS

- Use the charging device that came with the tool.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when recharging a cordless device.
- Recharge tools in a dry area that's free of combustible materials.
- Store battery packs in dry places away from metal and extreme temperatures.
- Observe local requirements for disposal of NICAD batteries.

NEVER

- Mix charging units and tools.
- Touch conductive material to a battery pack's terminals.
- Try and repair a cordless tool or recharging unit yourself.

Here are some websites to visit to find out more about power tools and power tool safety.

"Accident Survey"
http://www.woodworking.org

"Cordless Tools"
http://www.powertoolinstitute.com/safety/cordless.html

"Hand and Power Tool Safety"
http://www.du.edu/risk/Tool_Safety.html

"Hand and Power Tool Safety"
http://www.inform.umd.edu/CampusInfo/Departments/EnvirSafety/compliance/factsheet/html

"Occupational Safety – Hand and Power Tool Safety Guide"
http://www.ehs.stonybrook.edu/occupational/handpowertool.asp

"Power Tool Safety"
http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d000901-d001000/d000903/d000903.html

"Power Tool Safety Rules"
http://www.powertoolinstitute.com/teach/teach3.html

"Safety and Health Topics: Hand and Power Tools"
http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/handpowertools/

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"Tools – Cutting and Drilling (Power)"
http://doityourself.com/tools/tooldrillandcutpower.htm

"Tools – Cutting and Drilling (Power)"
http://doityourself.com/tools/tooldrillandcutpower.htm

"Tools – Getting Down to Basics"
http://doityourself.com/tools/toolintro.htm

"Using Portable Electric-Powered Tools Safely"
http://www.webworldinc.com/wes-con/powertls.htm

Holmes Safety District Councils in the Southeast

Mine operators, miners, contractors, vendors, State Grants representatives, MSHA representatives from enforcement, Educational Field Services and Small Mines--what do all these people have in common? They have all come together to establish Holmes Safety District Councils in the Southeast.

The purpose of these Councils is to provide an avenue for promoting safety and health in the mining industry and to provide a forum to exchange ideas on relevant issues that have an impact on miner safety.

Michael A. Davis, Southeastern District Manager, strongly believes in Holmes Safety and has committed his support to seeing these Councils start and continue to grow. He says, "District Council meetings are a great medium to bring issues to the table that directly affect the mining environment in a positive manner. When industry, labor and Government work together in such a worthwhile endeavor, the outcome can be measured in fewer accidents and a better understanding of the expectations of all parties involved. I have seen these Councils work in mining communities and make significant and positive changes in safety. As far as partnerships created, no member is greater than the other, everyone has a voice. It allows one to be part of a group with only one objective: improved health and safety at our mines."

"Our goal is to have Councils established in enough locations throughout the Southeast so that all persons interested in mine safety have access to a Council within a reasonable commuting area."

Promoting Safety and Health in the Mining Industry

Four Councils have been established and there are several others in the planning stages. Councils are currently located in:

Summiton, AL
Sandersville, GA
Lexington, KY
Jackson, MS

For further information on Council meeting dates, times and locations please visit the Southeastern Districts Homepage at www.msha.gov.

If you are interested in participating in a Council in the Southeast or if you would like to help establish a Council in your area, please contact Cindy Kinard at (205) 290-7296, ext. 225 or e-mail: kinard.cindy@dol.gov

Vermont's Northeast Regional Safety Academy

By Deborah Armstrong

In 2002 the Associated General Contractors of Vermont (AGCV) signed an agreement with the Vermont Department of Labor and Industry to develop programs to make sure that workers in the construction trades received thorough, state-of-the-art, safety training. Since the goal here was to make safety a top priority for all jobs, the AGCV expanded their initial plan to include miners.

Part of this agreement included creating a training center to accomplish this goal. The Northeast Regional Safety Academy, a nine-thousand square foot climate controlled building in Montpelier, Vermont, opened its doors in January 2003. It is the first hands-on construction safety training facility in the State of Vermont.

Partnership has been a big part of this effort since its beginning. Vendors and suppliers from throughout the region have donated equipment, materials, and training aids to enhance our instructional programs.

The classroom area (which is fully wired to access the Internet), can handle training classes and information in a variety of electronic and video formats. The room features a flexible seating arrangement to accommodate 60 students in "formal classroom" environment, and up to 120 participants in an auditorium setting. The main floor can be set up to hold 150 people for larger classes, meetings and seminars.

The Academy has different types of equipment to provide hands-on, practical training to its students. For example, trainees work with scaffolding, heavy equipment, trench boxes, hand and power tools and personal protective equipment. They learn about electrical safety in a lock-out tag-out center.

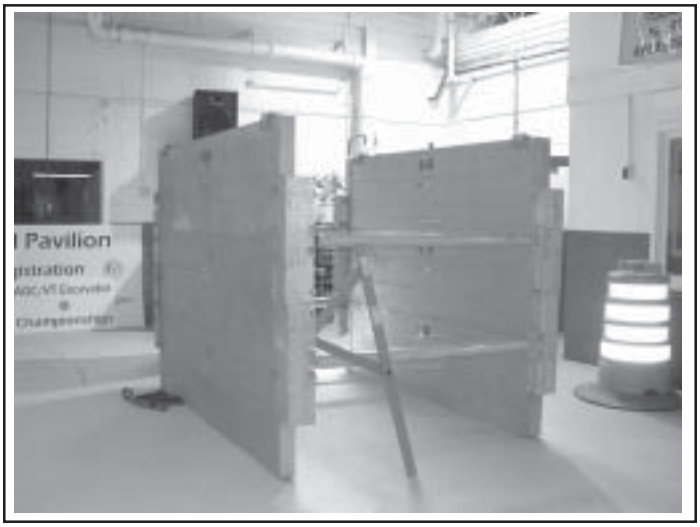
Northeast Regional Safety Academy

The facility can accommodate up to 60 students in a "formal classroom" environment.

Scaffolding

Safety in confined spaces is, of course, a major concern, and the Academy's confined space area is used to simulate problems that workers may encounter at a job site. How does this work?

Students learn about safety in confined spaces in a two-level training space that includes a "manhole" vertical entry with 75 feet of pipe running horizontally from it. The pipe sizes range from 18 to 36 inches in diameter. A trainer can set up different potential emergency situations such as obstacles or "bad air," to teach students how to deal with problems when they occur.



Trench Boxes

Other course offerings include Mine Safety and Health Administration sanctioned new miner and annual refresher training. We also offer first aid and CPR training and Hazardous Communication (HAZCOM) classes.

OSHA-related programs include 10 hour and 30 hour training classes. Students can attend OSHA-specific programs in both the General Industry and Construction categories. These offerings feature instruction in areas such as Power Tool Safety, Respiratory Protection, etc.

Trench Boxes

As mentioned before, partnership is crucial to our success. This is why the Northeast Regional Safety Academy makes training on different safety topics available to municipal workers, local fire departments and emergency medical personnel. The facility can be used to teach classes in vehicle extraction, confined space rescue, and to provide smoke room training to our clients.

What's ahead for us? The Associated General Contractors of Vermont look forward to continuing to work closely with other organizations, professional groups, and individuals to provide a full service facility to train the Green Mountain State's labor force in safe work practices, hazard recognition and accident prevention.

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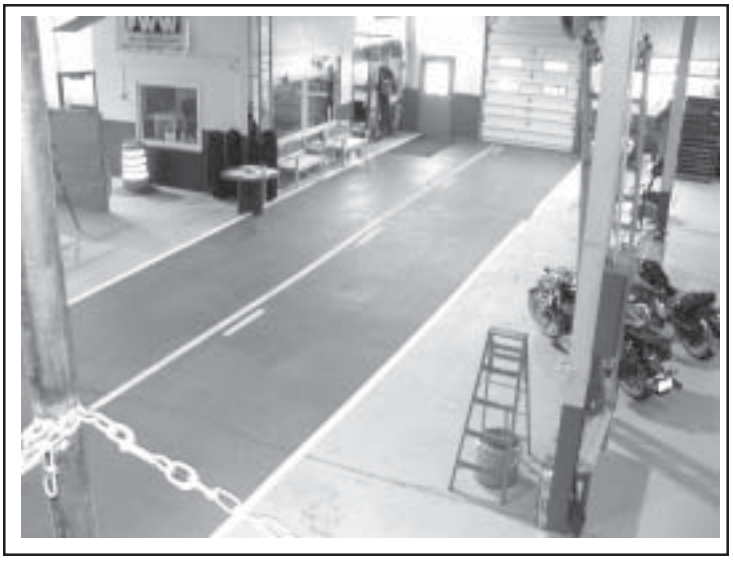
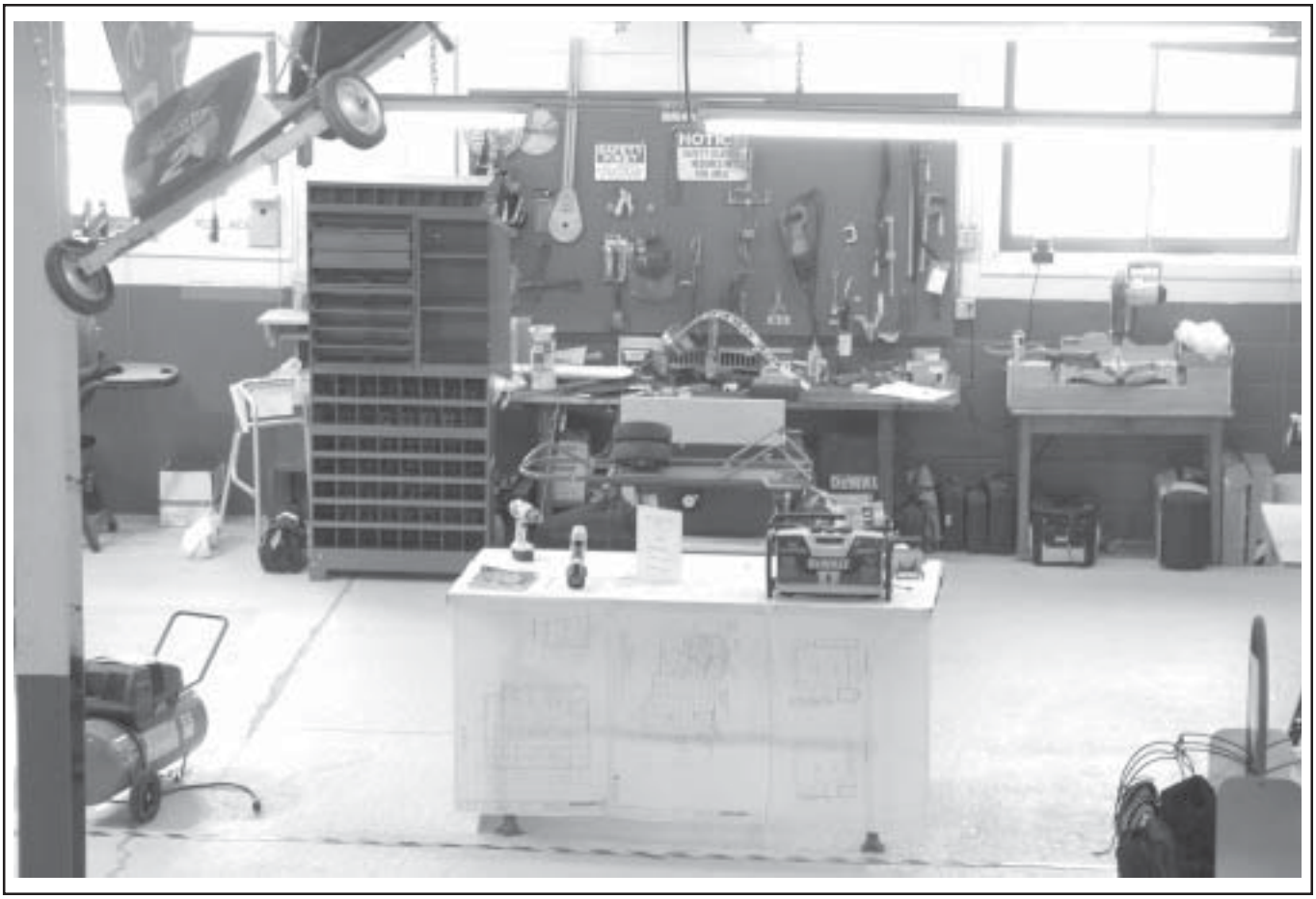
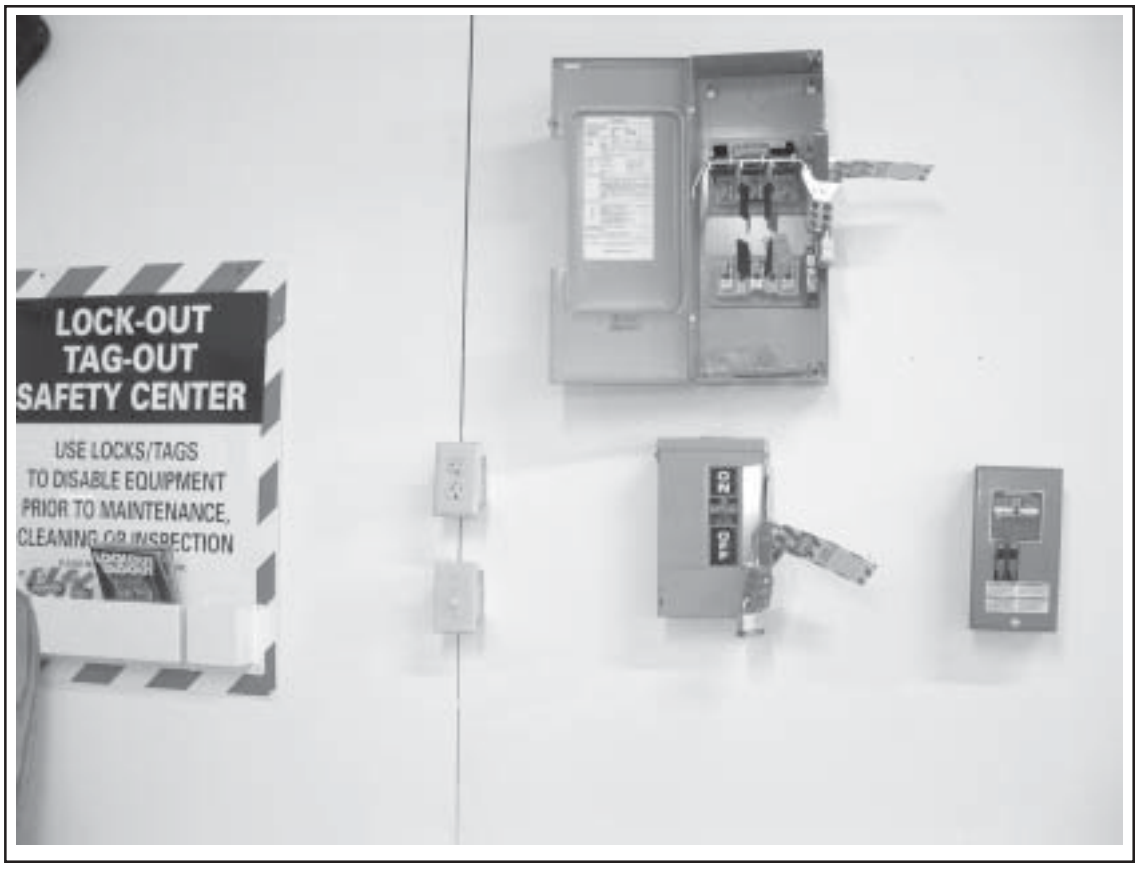


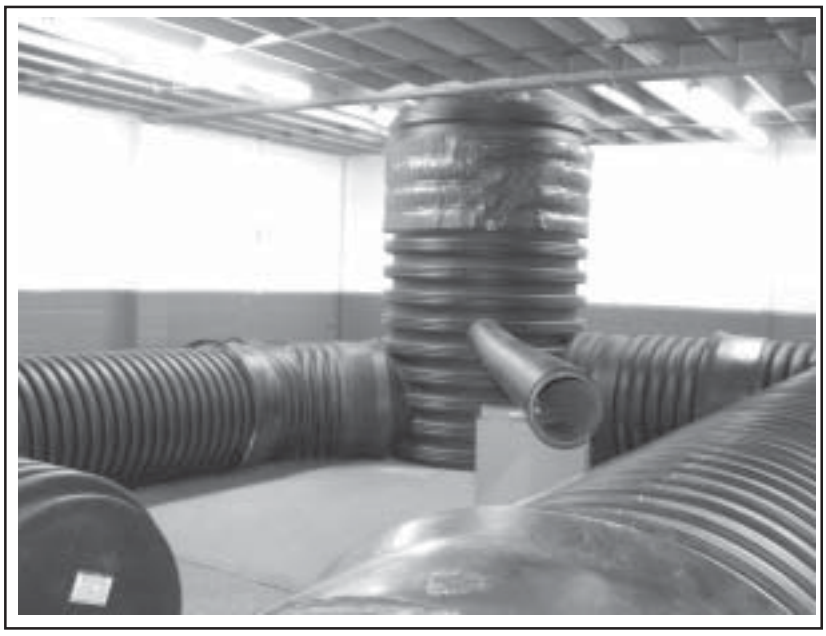
The facility can be used to teach classes in vehicle extraction, confined space rescue, and smoke room training.



Training Area for Hand and Power Tool Safety.



Equipment Used in Electrical Safety Training in the Lock-out Tag-Out Center.



Two-level Training Space for Confined Spaces Training.

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Examples of Hazardous Materials Used in Hazmat Training at the Facility.

If you would like to find out more about the center and its programs please contact:

Tracy Delude
Director of Administration
Associated General Contractors of Vermont
148 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05601
Telephone: (802) 223-2374
Email: tracy@agcvt.org

Mounting and Dismounting Mining Machinery

By Steve Hoyle

Here is a short quiz. If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then you are paying attention to your job and to your surroundings.

When mounting/dismounting mining machinery:

- I wear proper footwear.
- I take time to make sure the operator can see me and knows what I am going to do.
- I make sure the machine is stopped.
- I face the machine when mounting/dismounting.
- I check steps and handholds for defects before I use them.
- I look to see that steps and handholds are clean and dry.
- I use steps and handholds wherever possible.
- I maintain three points of contact with steps and handholds (both feet and one hand or both hands and one foot).
- I do not carry tools or supplies while getting on or off a machine.
- I climb down from equipment – I don't jump.
- I watch my step at all times.

Here are some websites you can visit for more information.

"Hazards Confronting Outdoor Workers"
http://www.mflohc.mb.ca/fact_sheets_folder/outdoor%20workers.html

"Health Risks for Heavy Equipment Operators."
http://66.203.200.8/UploadFiles/Magazine/VOL9NO3/93health.htm

"Heavy Construction Equipment"
http://www.billparsons.tv/safety_talks/Heavy%20Construction%20Equipment%202.pdf

EFS Conducts Accident Investigation Class for Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Members

Laman Lankford, Educational Field Services, Western Region, gets a big welcome from the JAH, Hill Country Council.

Laman Lankford, Educational Field Services, Western Region, is welcomed to the Texas Industries plant and quarry near San Marcus, Texas. The Holmes Safety Association, Hill Country Council, requested that Mr. Lankford conduct an accident investigation class for interested HSA members statewide. The class was held on October 21, 2003, and was attended by many representatives of the 12 councils currently active within the state. The goal was to acquaint attendees with MSHA's thought process during actual accident investigations and was patterned after Ken Scott's accident investigation class held at the Mine Academy. The afternoon session was dedicated to the investigation of a simulated accident. The class was a success due to the generosity of Texas Industries making available their training facilities.

2002 Champions of Safety in the Mining Industry

The Sentinels of Safety program is jointly sponsored by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the National Mining Association. The purpose of the Sentinels of Safety competition is to recognize the mines which have the best safety record in the country.

Awards are presented to operations in eight different types of mining. These include underground coal, surface coal, underground metal, underground nonmetal, open pit, quarry, bank or pit, and dredge. The mines' outstanding safety record is recognized by a bronze trophy. The Sentinels of Safety trophy, created in the 1920s by Begni Del Piatta, an Italian sculptor, portrays a woman holding a child. The base has an engraved plate showing the type of mining and the winning mine's name. The winning mines keep the trophy for a year when they receive a replica trophy as a memento of their achievement.

The winners for 2002 are:

Underground Coal Group – Creech #1 Mine, Powell Mountain Coal Co., Inc., St. Charles, VA: 132,142 hours worked.

Surface Coal Group – Eagle Butte Mine, RAG Coal West, Inc., Gillette, WY: 472,386 hours worked.

Underground Metal Group – Sweetwater Mine, The Doe Run Company, Viburnum, MO: 163,030 hours worked.

Underground Nonmetal Group – Mississippi Potash, West Mine, Mississippi Potash, Inc., Carlsbad, NM: 263,371 hours worked.

Open Pit Group – Aurora Division Mining Area, PCS Phosphate Co., Inc., Aurora, NC: 484,989 hours worked.

Quarry Group – 5R Constructors Quarry, 5R Constructors, LLC, Atlanta, GA: 146,829 hours worked.

Bank or Pit Group – Rinker Materials 19th Ave. Operation, Rinker Materials Western, Inc., Phoenix, AZ: 109,481 hours worked.

Dredge Group – Power Plant, Hallett Materials of Texas, Porter, TX: 90,595 hours worked.

Dave Lauriski, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, praised the winners as they received their awards. He said, "The Sentinels of Safety Award winners demonstrate what it takes to achieve an injury-free work record and have done so since the inception of the award in 1925." Lauriski continued, "The winners of the 2002 Sentinels of Safety are truly champions of safety in the mining industry, and have played a significant role in the achievements this industry has made. You have demonstrated that, in such a dynamic industry, it is indeed possible to work safely, and to send your employees home at the end of every shift in a healthy and safe condition. If mines like these can achieve injury-free work records year after year, so can others. You, the winners, are the role models. You set the bar, and often you raise that bar. I'm struck by the level of commitment miners and mine operators demonstrate to maintain a safe and healthy working environment."

For more information on the Sentinels of Safety program, visit the MSHA website at:

http://www.msha.gov/awards/2003sent/

2003 TRAM Training Materials Competition Winners

The 2003 TRAM Conference/National Mine Instructors Seminar was held at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy on October 14-16. The training materials competition is an important part of the conference. It is open to developers of health and safety training materials from academic institutions, the mining industry and states and other government agencies. This year contestants submitted nearly 30 entries in a variety of print and electronic formats.

Industry entrants receiving Certificates of Participation included: CONMAT, Inc., Gouverneur Talc Company, Inc., TILCON New York, TXI Hunter Stone, and the Associated General Contractors of Vermont. The West Virginia University Mining Extension Service received a Certificate of Participation for academic entries. The following states and other government groups were awarded Certificates of Participation: State of Nevada Mine Safety and Training Section, North Carolina Department of Labor – Mine and Quarry Bureau, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training and the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs.

Prize-winning entries for programs related to metal/nonmetal mining were: Martin Stone Quarries, Inc.'s PowerPoint, video and text program "Crushing Obstacles to Safety IV: Contractor Hazard Training: Contract Haulers," the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology for the CD-ROM program "Part 46 New Miner Training, 2nd Edition."

Coal prize winners were BHP Billiton SJ Mine's video program "Safe Production – The Way We Work," Pennsylvania State University's PowerPoint and text program "Control of Airborne Respirable Dust Hazards: A Training Program for Underground Miners," and the Virginia Division of Mines, Minerals and Energy for their program "Mine Emergencies – Lives Are at Risk."

The winning entries in the general mining area were the Florida Department of Environmental Protection/Bureau of Mine Reclamation's video "Safe Operation of Mobile Equipment," and DMS Safety's "Safety…Priority or Value."

The grand prize winner was the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology's "Part 46 New Miner Training, 2nd Edition."

MSHA, Safety Council Sign Agreement

On September 9, the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health administration (MSHA) and the National Safety Council (NSC) signed an agreement to work together to enhance safety programs for the mining industry. This MSHA Health and Safety partnership is part of Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao's ongoing efforts to improve the health and safety of workers through cooperative partnerships.

"The mining industry has just achieved its safest two years on record. Under this agreement, MSHA and the NSC will work together to make safety a top priority throughout the mining industry and send more miners home safe at the end of every working day," said Dave D. Lauriski, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health. "This agreement will result in a more focused relationship, with the objective of developing safety and health programs for the mining industry."

"The National Safety Council and the Mine Safety and Health administration share a passion for doing everything we can to keep mine workers safe and preventing mining accidents," said NSC President Alan McMillan. "Mining can be a hazardous occupation and miners deserve to have the very best knowledge and training about safety and health issues. Through this partnership, the National Safety Council will work closely with MSHA to address the important needs of mine workers and mining companies."

Among other activities under the agreement, MSHA and the NSC will:

- ❏ Identify ways to enhance participation of the NSC's Mining and Mineral Resources Section in safety and health outreach to the industry;
- ❏ Collaborate in developing and conducting technical sessions at a variety of events and conferences; and
- ❏ Work collaboratively to present clear and accurate statistical information on mining and minerals operations in the United States.

In addition, the alliance will enhance the existing relationship between MSHA and the NSC in the "Stay Out-Stay Alive" (SOSA) partnership, which educates young people and their parents about the hazards of playing in and around active or inactive mines. The SOSA partnership, coordinated by MSHA, currently includes about 90 member organizations.

MSHA promotes safety and health in the nation's mines through enforcement, education and training, and technical assistance. The NSC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate and influence society to adopt safety, health and environmental policies, practices and procedures that prevent and mitigate human suffering and economic losses arising from preventable causes. The agreement between MSHA and the NSC is the latest such alliance agreement in the mining industry.

NIOSH 8th Annual Safety Seminar for Underground Stone Mines

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) 8th Annual Safety Seminar for Underground Stone Mines will be held at the Executive Inn in Louisville, Kentucky on December 9-10, 2003.

This year's sessions include presentations by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on procedures required by mining operations under the Safe Explosives Act. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) speakers update you on the state of health and safety in the underground mining sector, provide information on diesel particulate regulations, and the role of their Small Mine Office. An "Earlybird Workshop," presented by NIOSH, will feature the latest information on hearing loss prevention and dust suppression.

Here is some more information about the workshops:

The Earlybird Workshop, "Noise and Dust," will be presented on December 9 at 4:00 p.m. in the Executive Inn's Label Room.

Attend this workshop to learn about the latest research and information on hearing loss prevention and dust sources and controls as they relate to the underground stone industry. We invite you to bring your questions and share your suggestions and insights on these topics, as NIOSH seeks more information in both these areas to develop ways to reduce worker exposure to noise and dust.

Two concurrent workshops are from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on December 10.

Come to the Ventilation Workshop to hear about the findings of NIOSH ventilation research conducted in operating underground large opening stone mines. The objective of this ongoing research is to develop and evaluate different ventilation designs to address variable conditions and circumstances common to the underground stone mining industry.

Other presenters will review ways to determine appropriate types of fans, capacity, and orientation to optimize ventilation air flows. Another speaker will describe improved designs for stoppings to direct and separate entries.

You will also see a demonstration of the ventilation air quantity estimator (NAQE) developed by NIOSH. The NAQE estimates the ventilation requirements of an underground mine dependent upon equipment, DPM controls and operating procedures.

The Safety and Health Workshop will include a series of presentations by MSHA (and others) on accident and illness prevention for miners. Topics to be covered in the workshop include examples of techniques and methods used to provide a safer and healthier underground work environment. There will be time for questions after each presentation.

For more information about the seminar, contact Lou Prosser at (412) 386-4423 or Email lfp2@cdc.gov

The telephone number for the Executive Inn is (502) 367-6161.

See next page for registration

FAX or MAIL

Registration Form

DECEMBER 9

Earlybird Noise and Dust Workshop (4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.) ☐

DECEMBER 10 CONCURRENT WORKSHOP (Please pick one)

Ventilation Workshop ☐

Health and Safety Workshop ☐

Name_____

Company/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State_____ Zip Code_____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email_____

RETURN TO:

Donna M. Opfer, NIOSH, Pittsburgh Research Laboratory,
P.O. Box 18070,
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0070
or Fax to (412) 386-6891 or email to dbo0@cdc.gov.

FOR MORE INFO: LOU PROSSER AT 412-386-4423, or Email lfp2@cdc.gov

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association

Buckle - Up Program

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association (JAHSA) Buckle-Up Program is dedicated to saving lives and preventing injuries through promoting the acceptance and use of seat belts throughout the mining industry. The Buckle-Up Program recognizes those working in the mineral extractive industries who have escaped more serious injury because they were wearing a seat belt at the time of a vehicle accident on or off mine property.

Recognition:

Qualified individuals (and family members) of any Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association will receive a Certificate of Recognition and a special sticker identifying them as a participant in the Buckle-Up Program. Where possible, certificates and stickers should be presented at local Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association meetings by an officer of the local Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association organization or a national Association representative. Additionally, individual experiences, including photographs if available of escapes from injury due to the use of seat belts may be published in the ***Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Bulletin.***

Nomination Criteria:

1. Employee (or family members) must have been wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident.
2. The accident could have occurred on or off mine property.
3. Nomination must have been submitted to the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association in accordance with the following procedures.

Nomination Procedure:
Nominations for recognition in the Buckle-Up Program should be submitted directly to:

Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association
Attn: Jon Montgomery
24 Burning Pines
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Nominations will be accepted directly from the employee involved in the accident, the employing company, the local MSHA office, from a local Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Chapter or Council, or from a State agency responsible for mine safety.

Nominations must include the following information:

1. Name of employee (or family members) nominated for recognition
2. Date of accident (Application must be within two years of accident)
3. Place of Accident
4. Mine/contractor ID Number (Employer)
5. Company name
6. Company address
7. Full description of accident (copy of MSHA accident report is acceptable) and a statement of the estimated seriousness of the injury had a seat belt not been in use at the time of the accident
8. Name and title, if applicable, of nominating individual
9. Company name, MSHA office, Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Council (whichever is applicable), address, and telephone number
10. Signature of employee (or family member) or nominating individual (whichever is applicable)
11. Any photographs of the accident (if available)
12. Date nomination submitted to Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association

Nominations will be reviewed by the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association, which reserves the sole right to determine the qualification of all nominees. In instances where questions concerning a nomination arise, the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association will use local MSHA personnel to determine the specific circumstances related to the nomination and to provide this information to the National Secretary, Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association, for appropriate action.

Buckle - Up Program

Nomination Form

_____escaped serious injury by wearing a seat belt at the time of a vehicular accident on or off mine property. I hereby nominate the above for recognition under the Joseph A. Holmes Association Buckle-Up Program.

Date of accident: _____

Place of accident:_____ _____ _____
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Mine name:_____ Company Name_____

Mine ID Number: ___ ___ --___ ___ ___ ___ ___ Contractor ID Number: ___ ___ ___ ___

Full description of event (copy of MSHA Accident Report is acceptable) and estimated extent of injury had seat belt not been in use: (Please provide photographs of accident, if available.)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Proposed by: (Printed Name)_____ Phone No_____

Company name, MSHA office, or HSA Council _____

Telephone number of person completing this application:_____ - _____- _____

I hereby certify the statements made above are true to the best of my knowledge.

_____ _____
(signature) (Date)

Mail to:
Jon Montgomery
Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association
24 Burning Pines
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Come Join Us

Apply for Membership...

Membership is free. Your organization can become a Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Chapter by completing a membership application and submitting it to the Holmes Safety Association.

Contact Person: _____ Phone No: _____

Company Name: _____

Street/P.O. Box: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

MSHA ID Number: _____

Type of Product:_____

Type of Operation: Coal _____ Underground _____ Surface _____ Mill _____ Other _____

Name you would like to call the chapter being established:_____

Name and organization of person assisting in recruiting this application: _____

_____

_____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Send to:
Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association
P.O. Box 9375
Arlington, VA 22219
or
Telephone: (202) 693-9574
Fax: (202) 693-9571

For address changes, comments, suggestions and new subscription requests:

Contact:
Bob Rhea
Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Bulletin
Mailing List
MSHA-US DOL
1100 Wilson Blvd. Rm. 2147
Arlington, VA 22209-3939
202/693-9574 Fax: 202/693-9571
E-mail: rhea.robert@dol.gov

Please address any comments to:
Steve Hoyle
Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Bulletin
DOL-MSHA
National Mine Health and Safety Academy
1301 Airport Road
Beaver, WV 25813-9426
Please call us at 304/256-3264
or Fax us at 304/256-3461
E-mail: hoyle.stephen@dol.gov

Reminder: The District Council Safety Competition for 2003 is underway - please remember that if you are participating this year, you need to mail your quarterly report to:

Mine Safety & Health Administration
Educational Policy and Development
Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Bulletin
P.O. Box 9375
Arlington, Virginia 22219

U.S. Department of Labor (MSHA)
Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association
1301 Airport Road
Beaver, West Virginia 25813-9426

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