



MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Miner's Tip

**SAFETY
IS A
VALUE!**

Avoid Dump-Point Hazards

Category : [Haulage](#)
Mine Type: [All Surface](#)

In the 1990s, 25 miners died when their trucks went over the edge of a dump point. Many of these accidents occurred at truck-built stockpiles. A common factor in many of these cases was that the truck was dumping above an area where the toe of the pile had been loaded-out. When a stockpile has been loaded out, the material can stand at a steep angle. But, in this condition, the berm may be undercut and the edge of the pile is more prone to giving away under the weight of the truck.



To prevent these accidents, mine operators need to ensure that their stockpiling procedures prevent truck drivers from attempting to dump near the edge of a pile where either the area below the dump point has been loaded-out and over-steepened, or the berm is inadequate, or cracks are present.

- The best safety approach is to "dump short." That is, dump back from the edge of the pile and push the material over - preferably with a track-dozer. Dumping back one truck-length from the edge is a good rule-of-thumb.
- Another safe approach is to routinely "block the ramp." When a customer is to be loaded, have the front-end-loader operator use the first bucket or two of material to block the ramp going to the top of the pile. Then keep the ramp blocked until any over-steepened slope conditions have been corrected and an adequate berm has been established around the edge of the pile.

Remember, routinely dumping short and pushing over, or routinely blocking the stockpile access ramp, are two ways to help prevent truck drivers from being exposed to potentially unsafe dump-point conditions. **Avoid that dump-point hazard - "dump short", or "block the ramp."**

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Remember – Safety is a Value that you can LIVE with!