

MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Miner's Tip



"Battery Safety"

Category: Maintenance Mine Type: All Mines



Battery powered equipment is commonplace in modern mining operations. Battery power often has many advantages over other types of power for mining equipment. In recent years, several hundred accidents have occurred where miners were blinded or seriously burned by batteries. Many of these accidents were related to charging, installing, removing, or maintaining batteries. MSHA believes these types of accidents are preventable. In addition,

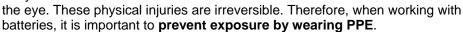
miners can be protected from

needless serious injury if they wear personal protective equipment (PPE), such as chemical resistant rubber gloves, aprons and face shields.

Batteries contain acid and can explode and/or catch on fire. In the event of a battery explosion or fire, acid and toxic fumes are released. When acid contacts the skin, extremely painful burns and scarring



result. When breathed, the lungs are burnt from the toxic chemicals present in fumes. Blindness will likely result if this acid contacts



When batteries are being charged, explosive gasses are produced. Heat and sparks can ignite these gasses causing a fire or explosion. All smoking, open flames and spark producing items such as grinders, welders or other electrical equipment, should be kept well clear of batteries.

Surface leakage is a condition caused when dust mixes with spilled electrolyte on the battery, creating a low resistance path. This low resistance path can "short" the battery. A shorted battery creates heat that can potentially cause a fire. Batteries should be kept relatively clean and free of excess dust to insure against shorting.

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Accidents	and injuries involv	ing batteries are	e avoidable. D o	O your part!!		
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Battery Manufacturers

East Penn Manufacturing Company, Incorporated/Deka 610-682-6	361
Last I of it Mandiacturing Company, incorporated/Deka 010-002-0	
Joy Technologies 814-432-1	364
Gould Industrial Battery 800-336-8	651
GNB Industry Power 724-228-4	160
Douglas Battery Manufacturing Company 800-Dougl	as
C&D Technologies 800-543-8	630
Crown Battery Manufacturing Co. 419-334-7	181
Mescher Manufacturing Company 540-530-7	856
Stamler Corporation 423-989-5	050
Electroplate Batteries Incorporated 606-377-2	032
Balco 724- 459-6	3814
Johnson Industries Incorporated 606-639-2	029
Saylor Mine Supply 606-573-6	097
EnerSys Incorporated 800-844-8	999

ALWAYS CHECK MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES BEFORE SERVICING A BATTERY !!!!!

Reissued:	04/30/2002		
Tag #	AP2002-M024		

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