

FIELD ★ NOTES

South Central District

Fall 2008

FROM THE DISTRICT MANAGER

If I were a safety minded miner...

If I were a miner working in these United States of America knowing what I know I would have liked to have spent my last 12 years working in the great state of **Delaware**. For in Delaware, albeit that they have only **7** mines, they have not suffered a fatal accident in at least 12 years (as far back as our internet listing goes).

Yet, maybe I would not like **Delaware**; so, still being the safety minded miner, maybe I would have rather spent the last 12 years mining in the great state of **Maine**. For not only are there beautiful fall colors in Maine but there are also **188** mines and none have suffered a fatal accident in the last 12 years.

Of course maybe I would not like to live in **Maine** because no one would understand my western accent and I've always liked mountains better than the beach (not really); so, I may have wanted to spend the last 12 years mining in the wonderful state of **North Dakota**. For not only are the mountains majestic but there are also **114** mines and none have suffered a fatal accident in the last 12 years.

Then when I think about it; as much as I love the mountains and would love to be closer to Canada than Mexico (not really); maybe, I would not like to live in **North Dakota**. So, I could have just as easily spent the last 12 years safely producing in the great state of **Vermont**. I understand Vermont is the cat's meow in winter, spring, summer and fall. But, not only do they have the most picturesque little towns in America but also **188** mines and none have suffered a fatal accident in the last 12 years (as far back as our internet listing goes).

As wonderful as **Vermont** may be, maybe I wouldn't want to live there. Maybe the winters are too fierce and there are too many leaves to rake each fall. Maybe, I would rather have spent the last 12 years mining in the great little state of **Rhode Island**. For, not only is it the smallest state in the union, with some of the nicest people you will ever meet, it also has **25** mines and none have suffered a fatal accident in the last 12 years, as far back as our internet listing goes...

Yes my friends, I think as an **American** miner, with safe production on my mind, I would like to have worked in any of the states listed above. Yet, what I dream of is the other 45 states, Puerto Rico and our American territories matching their accomplishment. We now have solid proof that we can do it!

I believe in Zero!

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Inside this issue:

DISTRICT NEWS	2
DISTRICT MINE RESCUE NEWS	3
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MINE RESCUE COMPETITION NEWS	4
DISTRICT SAFETY NOTES	5
CONTACT INFORMATION	6
DISTRICT PERSONNEL	7



CELEBRATING 'ZERO'

STE. GENEVIEVE , MO – A banquet was held recently at the Knights of Columbus hall in Ste. Genevieve to honor 10 years with out a lost time injury accident in the Mississippi Rotary Lime & Stone Maintenance division at Mississippi Lime Company.

Gene Kertz, MR Plant Superintendent, recognized MSHA's presence at the recognition dinner and assisted MSHA Representative Eddie Lopez in handing out individual certificates that expressed MSHA's appreciation for consistent safety performances. Kertz voiced appreciation of the overtime, call-outs and spousal support.

Eddie Lopez, MSHA District Manager from Dallas explained, "When you look at your accomplishments there were 3650 days (times three). That's the true reality of what you folks have done."



(Kneeling, from left), MSHA rep Ed Lopez, Ray Joggerst, Vernon Jokerst, Dan Hermann, Joe Lalumondiere, Dennis Bean, Rick McCloskey, Plant Superintendent Gene Kertz. Standing: Safety Manager Rick Donovan, Earl Resinger, Larry Gegg, Donnie Naeger, Gary Lawson, Glen Kraenzle, Joe Abt, Safety Supervisor Jeff Gurley. Not pictured: Gary Basler, Wayne Shuh, Perry Klein, Rick Byington, Bill Pfaff, Jim LeClere, Ivan Duvall, Gale Blackwell. (Photos by Michelle Hoog)

Some very proud guys!

Both the mechanical maintenance crew and the electrical and instrumentation crew of the Mississippi Rotary Lime and Stone business unit set new safety records this summer.

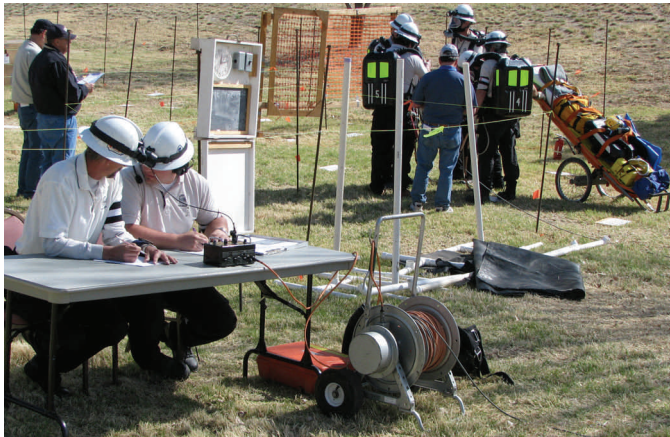
This marks the tenth consecutive safe year for the maintenance mechanics and the sixth consecutive safe year for the electricians and instrument technicians.



(Kneeling, from left), John Kraenzle, Clarence Mesey, Jack Grass, Garry Gegg, Plant Superintendent Gene Kertz, (standing, from left), Safety Manager Rick Donovan, Ron "Fluff" Bahr, Mike Nickelson, Roger French, Maint Supervisor Jimbo Weiler, MSHA representative Ed Lopez, Tom Flieg, Safety Supervisor Jeff Gurley.



District Mine Rescue Southwestern Regional



Members of the WIPP-Silver team work under the watchful eye of the judges as they communicate with their Fresh-air base to solve the problem in Carlsbad, NM.

First Place by Contest

Field	WIPP-Blue
First Aid	WIPP-Blue
BG-4 Bench	Joe Baca
Gas Instrument	James Pierce

District Mine Rescue Southern Regional

The Southern Region Mine Rescue Competition was held in New Iberia, LA on May 1st & 2nd. A total of 14 teams participated in the contest.

First Place By Contest

Overall	WIPP-Blue
Field	Stillwater Platinum
First Aid	WIPP-Blue
BG-4 Bench	Joe Baca
Bio-Marine Bench	Casey Slaughter
Gas Instrument	Kenny Wood



Members of the Stillwater Platinum Mine Rescue Team accept the First Place Trophy for the Field Competition in New Iberia.

On behalf of all of the MSHA people who worked extremely hard to make both of these competitions a great success, a genuine *'well done'* to all of the teams. It was an honor to support and judge all of the mine rescue teams that competed in Carlsbad, New Mexico and New Iberia, Louisiana this year. Everyone who competed were winners even if they did not leave the competitions with a trophy. We hope everyone enjoyed the field test and that they were able to take something back to their respective mines that can be useful. Good luck to all of you at future competitions and keep up the great work.

David Hamm, South Central District Safety Specialist.

2008 REGIONAL MINE RESCUE CONTEST DATES

September 30 to October 2, 2008

Missouri Contest

Rolla, MO



National/International Mine Rescue Competition

The 18th National and 6th International Mine Rescue competition was held in Reno, NV during the week of July 14th, 2008. There were 33 teams from the US and 10 international teams represented at the competition.

National Champions By Contest

Overall	FMC Alkali Chemicals—Red Team
Field	FMC Alkali Chemicals—Red Team
First Aid	Barrick Goldstrike—Gold Team
Gas Instrument	Rick Owens FMC Red
BG-4 Bench	Tyler Lovato OCI Blue of Wyoming
Bio-Marine Bench	Robert Rodriguez Barrick TRSV Team # 2



A team starts their exploration of the mine during the competition. At the side a judge writes down his comments on the team's score sheet.

International Contest

First Place	Anglo Coal, Australia
Second Place	Black Gold, Poland
Third Place	White Eagles, Poland
Fourth Place	Team USA, United States of America



Under the watchful eyes of Judges and spectators alike, two of the international teams prepare for the field competition.



District Safety Notes

CRANES & CRANE SAFETY

Recently in the news there have been numerous reports of accidents, injuries and fatalities involving cranes. Accidents in cities like New York, Houston, Miami, and Las Vegas have caused people to be killed or severely injured and high dollar property damage. Since June of 2007, there have been a total of 5 fatalities related to use of cranes and/or man-lifts in the mining industry. Most of these could have been prevented with use of proper procedures and training. Fatal accidents include:

The victim was lifting a section of pipeline with a 20-Ton crane. The outriggers were not used and the crane tipped onto its side. The victim jumped or fell and was crushed when the crane landed on him.

The victim was assisting co-workers to install a section of 42-inch diameter pipe suspended from the boom of a crane. The pipe shifted and struck him.

Two workers were fatally injured when the man-lift they were using became unstable and toppled over. The boom was fully extended about 90 feet above the ground.

A crane was being used to lower a 7,000 pound counterweight into place. The victim was checking alignment of the bolt holes when one of the connectors on the rigging broke, causing the counter weight to swing and strike him. The second connector then broke and the counterweight fell on top of the victim.

Best Practices:

- Identify and review hazards associated with the task to be performed with all personnel involved prior to beginning work. Identify and control all hazards to finish the job safely.
- Train personnel to recognize and understand safe procedures, including those in the equipment operator's manual, prior to operating the crane.
- Ensure that persons are properly task trained regarding safe operating procedures before allowing them to operate equipment.
- Ensure that all operating systems and safety features on equipment are maintained and functional at all times.
- Ensure that crane operators understand the crane controls and are trained to use the load chart.
- Use the manufacturer's operators' manual and ensure that required tests are performed on equipment.
- Park equipment on level and stable ground and operate it within the design specifications of the manufacturer.
- Extend and set stabilizers prior to lifting or moving a load.
- Securely block equipment against all hazardous motion at all times while performing work.
- Implement measures to ensure persons are properly positioned and protected from suspended loads. Keep all persons clear of suspended loads.
- Securely rig a load prior to lifting or moving it. Use sling or chain assemblies (rigging) specifically intended for lifting and adequately rated for the loads being lifted.
- Carefully inspect all rigging prior to each use.
- Properly attach or rig slings, chains, and hooks.
- Always wear a seatbelt.



District Contact Information

MSHA
 1100 Commerce Street
 Room 462
 Dallas, TX 75242
 Phone: 214-767-8401
 Fax: 214-767-8405

Leave No Mine(r) Behind.

We're on the Web!
www.msha.gov

To submit information and photos for possible inclusion in Field Notes, please contact Mac Burriss in the district office at 214-767-8401 or at burriss.elwood@dol.gov.

Safety Coaching

Whether coaching the members of a winning athletic team or the individuals in a work group, remember the word: COACH

C—care: Show that you care; Set caring examples.

O — observe: Define target behavior; Record behavior occurrences.

A — analyze: Identify existing and potential contingencies.

C — communicate: Listen Actively; Speak persuasively

H — help: Recognize continuous improvement; Teach and encourage the process

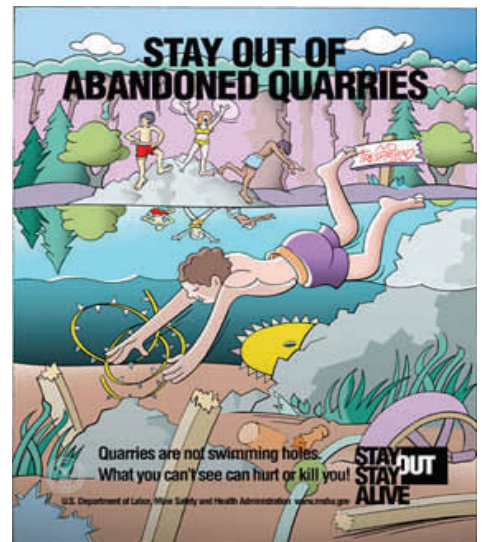
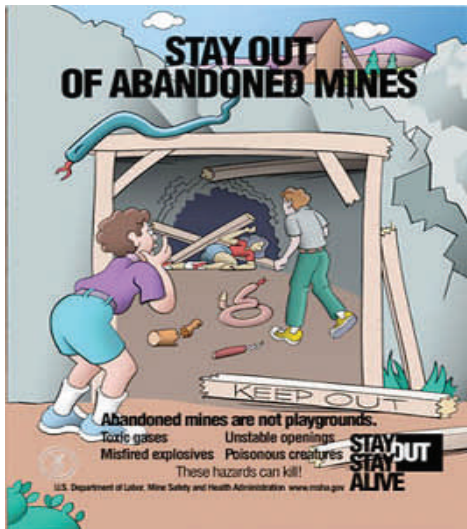
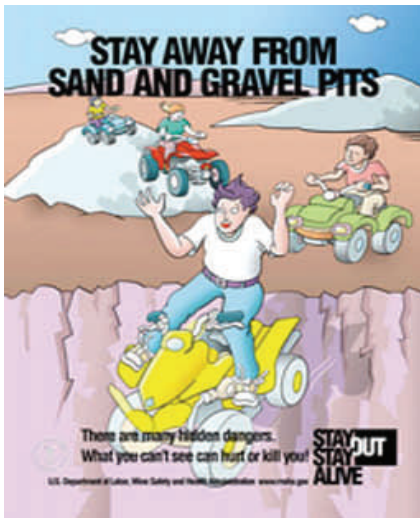


A Safety Reminder to Families Don't Go Into Abandoned Mine Sites

The Dangers are all around you!

- Unstable mine openings
- Rotten boards and timbers
- Deadly gases
- Unused explosives that may accidentally misfire
- Poisonous snakes and insects

STAY OUT—STAY ALIVE



For further information, please visit the website: www.msha.gov for more information.

To report unsafe access to mines: (800) 746-1554