



**Fatality #12 – August 6, 2008**  
**Electrical - New Mexico - Potash**  
**Intrepid Potash NM LLC - Intrepid Potash East**

**METAL/NONMETAL MINE FATALITY** - On August 6, 2008, a 38 year-old shift foreman with 15 years experience was fatally injured on the surface of an underground potash mine. The victim was electrocuted when he contacted an energized steel water line. One conductor of a 480-volt electrical circuit short-circuited to an abandoned heater tape where both circuits passed through a common conduit box. The heater tape, which was attached to the water line, overheated and energized the water line to 277 volts.



**Best Practices**

- Examine the work area for any potential hazards.
- Label all power switches to identify which units they control.
- Ground all metal enclosing electrical circuits.
- Conduct continuity and resistance tests of all grounding systems.
- Keep workplaces clean and orderly.
- Remove all abandoned electrical circuits.

This is the 12<sup>th</sup> fatality reported in calendar year 2008 in the metal and nonmetal mining industries. As of this date in 2007, there were 21 fatalities reported in these industries. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Electrical fatality in 2008. There were no Electrical fatalities in the same period in 2007.

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The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.

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