

Investigation of a Slip/Fall Accident

Problem Booklet

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Instructions

Read the problem described on the next page. Then answer the 8 questions. Do them one at a time. Don't jump ahead, but you may look back to earlier questions and your answers. The questions tell you to select as many answers as you think are correct.

After you have selected your choice to a question, look up the number for that choice on the answer sheet. Rub the special pen between the brackets for that choice. A hidden message will appear that tells you if the choice is correct and provides you with additional information. When you finish you will learn how to score your performance.

Background

You have been the general mine foreman at White Rock Mine for 4 years and have worked at the mine for 12 years.

This mine has 3 working sections and a longwall and employs 187 miners who work on three production shifts.

Bruce Holt is a day shift section foreman. He has worked at this mine for 6 years, four years as a continuous miner operator, and two years as the section foreman for 4-G section.

The 4-G section is a five entry section. Housekeeping and maintenance of the section is split among the three shifts, with Bruce Holt's shift being responsible for the track entry.

John Smith has worked at this mine for 12 years. For the last 8 years he has been a scoop operator and section supply man.

Mike Powell, the safety supervisor, has 22 years experience in mining and 6 years in this job.

Problem

The mine superintendent calls you into his office. He gives you the following accident report for John Smith, a scoop operator on the 4-G section:

Accident occurred on the day shift on 4-G section of the #1 Mine. Employee was carrying rock dust bags from the rock dust car to a battery powered scoop. A muddy area, approximately 9' x 3' with ankle deep mud, was along the walkway side of the rock dust car. It consisted of a water and rock dust mixture forming a slippery walkway. Employee's right foot stuck in the mud and his left foot slipped, causing him to fall over against the flat car. He struck his left wrist on the car, causing a severe bruise. He lost a day's work as a result of this accident.

The accident report includes the drawing shown in Figure 1 on the next page.

Several days after the accident, the mine superintendent assigns you and the safety supervisor to thoroughly investigate all the contributing factors to this accident. He is determined to find ways to prevent slipping and tripping accidents. Your job is to make specific recommendations to the superintendent. You want your recommendations to be both practical and effective.

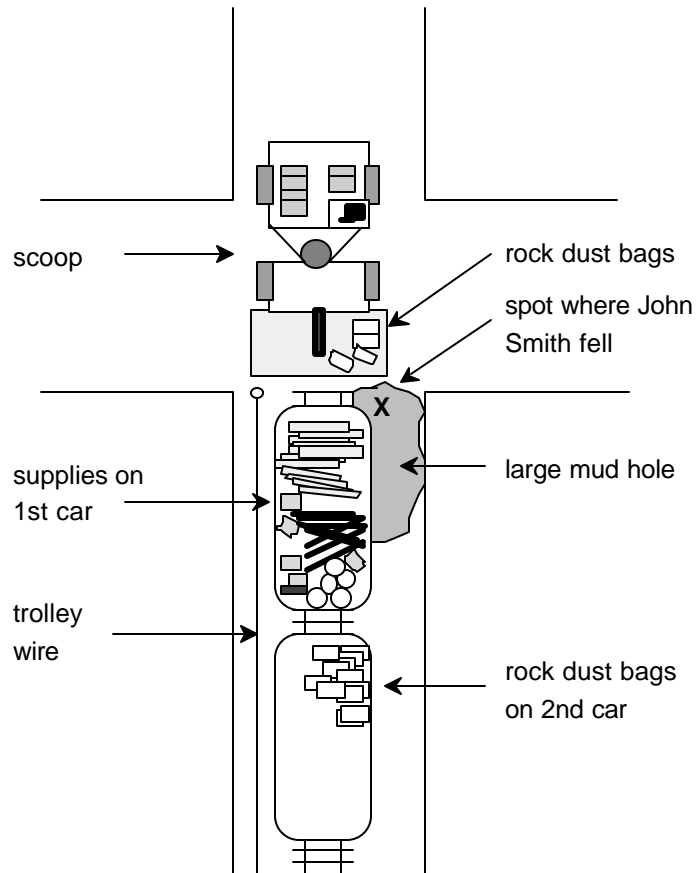


Figure 1: Sketch of the mud hole and accident scene

Question A

You meet with Mike Powell, the safety supervisor to plan the investigation. You both want to find all the contributing factors for this particular accident. Which of the following should you plan to do? (Select as MANY as you think are correct.)

1. Interview Bruce Holt, the foreman of the 4-G section where the accident occurred.
2. Interview John Smith, the injured scoop car operator.
3. Interview John Smith's co-workers on the section.
4. Interview the assistant mine superintendent.
5. Visit the 4-G section and examine the area where the accident took place.
6. Talk to the dispatcher about the accident.
7. Attempt to determine if John was wearing proper personal protective equipment.
8. Review John's personnel file in preparation for your investigation of the accident.
9. Attempt to determine if John is a conscientious worker, so you can ask the right questions when you conduct your investigation.

WHEN YOU HAVE MADE YOUR SELECTION(S), DO THE NEXT QUESTION.

Question B

You and Mike decide to interview John, Bruce, & John's coworkers, determine if John was wearing the proper safety equipment, and visit the accident site. You start by talking with John Smith, the scoop operator. He says he was just trying to do his job, and that the boss wanted the dust in a hurry. He says if the boss would keep the section cleaned up, this accident wouldn't have happened. Then you ask John, "Why didn't you clean up the mud hole?" He says, "The boss didn't tell me to fix it. It's not my job!" Which of the following are correct? (Select as MANY as you think are correct.)

10. John feels he is not responsible for taking care of the mud hole unless he has specific orders to do so.
11. John should have informed his foreman about the hazard and suggested some actions to eliminate the condition or correct it.
12. It's John's responsibility to make the place safe for himself and his co-workers even though he was not specifically directed to do so.
13. John needs more training in hazard recognition.

WHEN YOU HAVE MADE YOUR SELECTION(S), DO THE NEXT QUESTION.

Question C

Next you interview Bruce, the foreman about the accident. He says that he sent John, the section supplyman, to move rock dust from the supply car to the scoop. (See Figure 1). Bruce says that since this task is part of John's job, he gave him no specific instructions. Then he added, "Occasionally mud holes appear. This one was there for only a week. Since I know that John is somewhat accident prone, I told him to 'Be careful!' John is the only one who was injured."

What should you conclude based on the foreman's statements? (Select as MANY as you think are correct.)

14. The accident is John's fault, due to his not paying attention to slip and trip hazards.
15. John is accident prone.
16. Bruce, the foreman, is committed to safety, because he always reminds his crew to "Be careful".
17. Bruce, the foreman, was aware of the mud hole and the hazards it presented at the work site.
18. You need more information about the details of the accident.
19. Bruce, the foreman, did not provide John with adequate task training for this type of materials handling job.

WHEN YOU HAVE MADE YOUR SELECTION(S), DO THE NEXT QUESTION.

Question D

You have decided you need more information. You look at John's training record, which shows that John has received his task training on scoop operation and materials handling. You, Mike, and Bruce visit the accident site on 4-G section. Bruce tells you he told John to move 20 bags of rock dust from the supply car to the scoop parked about 40 feet away on the other side of the mud hole. Then, Bruce says he always tells his employees to work safely and take care of unsafe work hazards. He says he is extremely interested in preventing accidents and constantly advises his employees about changes in the conditions on the section.

Which of the following statements are true? (Select as MANY as you think are correct.)

- 20. The foreman's perceptions and actions are likely to encourage John and the other miners to identify and correct unsafe work conditions.
- 21. The foreman talks safety but ignores his responsibility of correcting the hazard.
- 22. The foreman had a responsibility to instruct John about how to correct the muddy condition and work safely.
- 23. A good foreman is expected to monitor his or her employees frequently.
- 24. The foreman has provided enough instruction and supervision so that John should have been able to perform the job safely.

WHEN YOU HAVE MADE YOUR SELECTION(S), DO THE NEXT QUESTION.

Question E

As you examine the work site, you notice the dinner hole is dirty, there are roof bolts in the walkway of the track entry, there are papers and debris around the power center, and the equipment on the section is dirty and covered with coal and stone. You ask Bruce, "Do you assign specific miners to specific housekeeping duties?" Bruce says, "No, I tell them it's everybody's job!"

Given what you have seen and Bruce's response, what have you established at this point? (Select as MANY as you think are correct.)

- 25. Housekeeping on the section is generally poor.
- 26. Accidents involving housekeeping problems will continue to occur on this section.
- 27. On this section, housekeeping will probably continue to be a subject of discussion but not action.
- 28. Because of management's attention to this accident, housekeeping on this section will improve.
- 29. The housekeeping problem may not be limited to Bruce's shift.

WHEN YOU HAVE MADE YOUR SELECTION(S), DO THE NEXT QUESTION.

Question F

You decide you need more information and review John's personnel file and his accident record. Here's what you find: John has worked as a scoop operator for 8 years, and has had 12 reportable accidents in the last 2 years. Most of these are slipping, tripping and injuries to the hand. Interviews with John, his supervisors, and co-workers indicate that he is a good worker.

What should you recommend for John, based not only on what you find in the personnel file, but also on your investigation of contributing factors? (Select as MANY as you think are correct.)

- 30. Observations of John by you and Bruce.
- 31. Special attention or training and review of his accidents.
- 32. Discipline John.
- 33. A medical examination.
- 34. To provide John feedback that part of his job is to assess safety hazards before performing tasks.
- 35. Remind John it is his responsibility to notify supervisors of hazards and to correct those hazards under his control.

WHEN YOU HAVE MADE YOUR SELECTION(S), DO THE NEXT QUESTION.

Question G

Based on your investigation which of the following are contributing factors to John's accident. (Select as MANY as you think are correct.)

- 36. The foremen and crews walked through the mud hole for a week.
- 37. Housekeeping was generally poor.
- 38. Bruce, the foreman, failed to give specific work instructions to John concerning the moving of the rock dust and correcting the hazard of the mud hole.
- 39. John's co-workers ignored the hazard.
- 40. No specific plan for housekeeping was in force on this section.
- 41. John's poor safety attitude.
- 42. Bruce, the foreman talked safety, but took little action.
- 43. John, the scoop operator, felt he had little personal responsibility for correcting the mud hole.

WHEN YOU HAVE MADE YOUR SELECTION(S), DO THE NEXT QUESTION.

Question H

Based on your findings, which of the following recommendations would you make to the superintendent? (Select as MANY as you think are correct.)

44. Train the foreman to make safety a specific part of his work assignments and plans.
45. Remind the foreman of his responsibility to see that unsafe conditions are corrected before employees begin work.
46. Have the mine foreman tour section 4-G with Bruce to identify and describe how to correct unacceptable conditions.
47. John and Bruce should review the safe working procedures for this task.
48. Have the section foreman assign specific areas of responsibilities for housekeeping to each employee and follow up on assignments.
49. Discipline the foreman.
50. Plan and conduct an investigation for all lost time accidents.
51. Work the foreman weekends until he gets the message.
52. You, as the general mine foreman, and the safety supervisor should visit the section more frequently to assess housekeeping conditions and effectiveness of the section foreman.
53. This accident should be a subject of discussion at a future safety meeting.

END OF PROBLEM

Scoring your performance

1. Count the total numbers of responses you colored in that were marked "Correct". Write this number in the first blank on the answer sheet.
2. Count the total number of "incorrect" responses you colored in. Subtract this number from 16. Write the difference in the second blank on the answer sheet.
3. Add the numbers on blanks one and two.
4. The best score is 53. The worst score is 0.