

Tips for the Trainer Aggregate Safety

- #1 - Always wear your personal protective equipment!
Discuss MSHA regulations and company policy about PPE's. Note any special equipment needed for your site. Bring in examples and show trainees how to use them.
- #2 - Be careful around conveyor belts. Tuck in loose clothing and remove loose jewelry.
Convey (no pun intended) the importance of being careful around belt lines. Use MSHA Fatalgrams for examples of dangerous situations and consequences that have to do with missing guards.
- #3 - Never ride on a moving conveyor belt! Always make sure they are shut off, locked out, and tagged out!
Show examples of lockout/tagout devices and where they are stored on mine property. Talk about the danger of jumping off conveyors and stock piles.
- #4 - Be aware of vehicles in your area. When approaching a vehicle, make sure the operator can see you.
MAKE EYE CONTACT AND WATCH FOR CONFIRMATION!
Show a map of basic traffic patterns around your site, as well as schedules for busy times. Familiarize new miners with the names and jobs of each piece of large equipment. Talk about blind spots.
- #5 - High-pressure tires can explode. Never tamper with a tire unless you are properly trained.
Show new hires the shop area where tires can be brought for repair and inspection. Show them examples of tire wear, under-inflation, and other hazards. Use MSHA accident reports to emphasize the dangers of high-pressure tires.
- #6 - Never operate a vehicle you aren't trained to run. Ask your supervisor for task training on each specific piece of equipment.
Familiarize the trainees with the procedure for task training and where to find the required paperwork. Also, give them some idea of the time involved when learning new jobs.
- #7 - Electricity can Kill you! Be aware of cables, generators, and power sources. They could be overhead or underground.
Have an electrician show examples of various cables and their power capacity. Perhaps include a discussion on common placement of power around the plant.
- #8 - Always use fall protection when working above the ground. Ask your supervisor about proper use and training.
Have members of the class try on various types of fall protection. Also show them where such equipment is stored, how to get trained to use it, and when it is required.
- #9 - Don't walk or drive over surge piles!
If your site includes surge piles, show new miners their locations. Cite MSHA Fatalgrams for accidents involving surge piles. Talk about stockpiles and angles of repose. Show pictures of equipment buried by unexpected movement.
- #10 - Work safe. Don't risk injury to yourself or others with horseplay.
Discuss company policy regarding horseplay. Hand out flyers for the company softball team and suggest it as an alternative to playing around on the job.
- #11 - Stay clear of highwalls and other stockpiled material. They can fall or shift suddenly.
Tell the new miners about the locations of highwalls on your property and the correct way to approach or work near the structures. Remind them that even a small rock can cause injury if it falls on you. Explain where it is safe to stand or sit.
- #12 - Keep your body hydrated and your energy levels up. Mining is hard work. Your body needs food and water to operate efficiently.
Discuss fatigue and biorhythms. People make silly mistakes when they are sleepy and tired or have low blood sugar.
- #13 - Be prepared for adverse working conditions. Heat or cold, bugs, snakes, and wind all require different means of protection. Ask your supervisor about various conditions in and around the mine.
Talk about the common signs of heat exhaustion, frostbite, and other weather-related injuries. Give tips on how to protect themselves and what resources are available from the company. Remind them to notify you of any allergies that could be life-threatening.
- #14 - Stay away from mine ponds and irrigation channels. They contain hidden hazards that change daily.
Talk about personal flotation devices (PFDs) and what to do in case someone falls into a pond. Ask them how long they think a piece of equipment (or a miner in full PPE) would float.