



Mining Injury Rates Continue to Drop Enforcement Remains Strong

The Mine Safety and Health Administration has jurisdiction over approximately 2,100 coal mines and 12,800 metal and nonmetal mines nationwide. The Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) mission is to protect the safety and health of the nation's miners under the provisions of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), as amended by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (MINER Act). MSHA's vision is to lead the way to zero accidents and fatalities and to put an end to occupational illness in the mining industry through enforcement of mandatory safety and health standards, mandated inspections which requires four annual inspections at all underground mines, two at all surface mines, and proactive compliance assistance and partnering with the mining community.

All Mining	CY 2002	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	CY 2008	Percent change, CY 2002-2008
Total Citations and Orders ¹	105,589	109,761	120,844	127,951	140,264	144,735	174,522	+65%
Total Mining Area Inspection Hours/Mine ²	48	50	51	45	43	44	56	+17%
Mining fatalities	70	56	55	58	73	67	52	-26%
Total mining injuries	13,413	12,050	12,105	12,443	12,057	11,548	11,017	-18%
Number of miners	329,114	320,149	329,008	344,837	363,497	378,122	392,012	+19%

During the period 2002 through 2008, total mining fatalities declined by 26 percent, while total mining injuries declined by 18 percent.



The Triangle of Success

MSHA has encouraged the development of a culture of prevention in the mining industry, embedding safety and health as core values in all initiatives and ongoing activities. Inspectors are trained to vigorously enforce the law and detect areas and activities that are most likely to place miners at risk. This strong enforcement is complemented by programs that help mine operators understand the law and how to comply with the law's requirements – and understand the consequences of non-compliance. MSHA's technical support program applies

scientific and engineering solutions to mitigate hazards. Education and training for the mining industry is crucial to the reduction of accidents and illnesses. MSHA ensures that its training specialists and technical support personnel are readily accessible to the mining industry. MSHA has entered into Alliance Agreements with various industry groups that have created a network of partnerships that encourage the development of safe and healthful workplaces in the nation's mines. MSHA's Small Mine Office (SMO) assists small mines which may have limited resources to develop effective safety, health and training practices. MSHA established this program to help small mines comply with MSHA's safety and health regulations, develop, and maintain safety and health programs to protect their miners.

Rates of mining injuries substantiate safety progress

Rates of injury are recognized as the most reliable index of safety progress. The mining industry achieved substantial reductions in injury rates across the board from CY 2002 to CY 2008.

All Mining	CY 2002	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	CY 2008	Percent change, CY 2002-2008
Lost-time injury rate ³	3.25	2.96	2.75	2.65	2.45	2.33	2.20	-32%
All injury rate ³	4.60	4.23	4.05	3.92	3.64	3.43	3.24	-30%

1-Citations and orders are those not vacated

2-Total Mining Area Time includes: On-site Inspection Time (M/NM), MMU Pit Time (Coal), Outby Area Time (Coal), Surface Area Time (Coal), Citation/Order writing On-Site. On-site inspection hours represent hours entered by Authorized Representatives of the Secretary (AR) for certain inspection activities and task codes.

3-Reported injuries per 200,000 hours worked