



Fatality #1 - February 6, 2009
Powered Haulage - Surface - West Virginia
Elk Run Coal Company - Republic Energy

COAL MINE FATALITY - On Friday, February 6, 2009, a 70 year old contract truck driver with eight weeks experience on this job was fatally injured while driving a truck on a coal haulage road. The truck struck the left embankment at an angle, traveled approximately 97 feet down grade, and turned over on the road. The victim was fatally injured when he was trapped under the cab of the truck.



Best Practices

- Never operate a truck or other mobile equipment without using a seat belt.
- Observe all speed limits, traffic rules, and ensure that grades on haulage roads are appropriate for haulage equipment being used.
- Know the truck's capabilities, operating ranges, load-limits and properly maintain the brakes and other safety features.
- Always select the proper gear and downshift well in advance of descending the grade.
- Routinely monitor work habits and examine work areas to ensure that safe work procedures are followed.
- Train all employees on proper work procedures and hazard recognition and avoidance.

This is the first fatality reported in calendar year 2009 in the coal mining industry. As of this date in 2008, there were three fatalities reported in the coal mining industry. This is the first Powered Haulage fatality in 2009. At this time in 2008, there was one fatality in this classification.

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.
