

¢ Safety Sense ¢

The mining industry has continued to evolve and adapt to ever changing situations and conditions. With the need for additional manpower to operate the mines, more and more operators are contracting their mining operations. At these mines, contractors are performing every aspect of day to day operations. As contractors change work locations and assignments, so do the hazards. Most often the hazards result from a failure to follow standard operating procedures or failure to recognize work place hazards.

Contractor employees are involved in an increasing number of accidents and fatalities at the mine sites. Of the 26 fatal injuries to coal miners during 2008, ten or 38 percent were contract employees.

Some additional facts related to contractor employee fatalities are:

90% involve machinery or powered haulage;
40% had less than 3 years and 30% had less than 1 year total mining experience
60% had less than 1 year with the current contractor;
90% were under 51 years old; 40% were under 32 years old;
60% occurred between 11:00 AM and 12:45 PM;
50% occurred in West Virginia;
25% occurred in Kentucky and Pennsylvania.
40% occurred on Friday and 0% on Thursday, Saturday or Sunday.



DON'T
BECOME A
STATISTIC!

These facts show some interesting information including the type of accident, age of victims, occurrence time, and employment time with the contractor.

Contract miners are required to have all the training related to their experience (new miner, newly employed experienced miner, and annual training). Hazard training is mandatory as well as vital to the safety of the miner. Each employee must know the safety aspects of each job they are performing.

The operator and/or contract employer is required to give the necessary training and oversee its implementation for ALL their employees. Operators should also confirm that contract employees, who have received some of their training off the mine site, have received adequate training before they start work.

WORK SAFE TO SAVE A LIFE.
ALWAYS BE CONSCIOUS OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS.