



SAFETY NOTICE

FAST!

FIX A SHAFT TODAY!



To Active Mining Claimants in the California Desert District

The Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs, and the National Mining Association are concerned about increasing numbers of abandoned mine safety hazard-related accidents occurring in the Southwestern desert states. According to Mine Safety Health Administration (MSHA) approximately 29 people die each year due to accidents involving mine land features. Deaths and injuries have occurred on lands mined and then abandoned. A growing number of fatalities are occurring on private and public lands, as well as mining claims that are inactive.

In the past, many abandoned mine lands were considered remote, but with population growth, urban sprawl and increased recreation use (e.g., motorcycles and Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV's)), accidents are on the rise. In addition, the death in September 2007 (Labor Day Weekend) in Chloride, AZ of a young girl and the severe injuries suffered by her sister when they rode their OHV into an open mine shaft provides a sad and unnecessary example of what can and is happening. Personal injury lawsuits and tort claims have been filed by involved parties.

Seeing the need to quickly and effectively fix these mine shafts before accidents happen, we have partnered together and initiated the FAST! Campaign, Fix A Shaft Today! We cannot do it alone; we need your help. The FAST! Campaign seeks to partner with mine claimants, landowners, mining industry, recreational user groups, and volunteers to work together to mitigate or remediate these unsafe mine features.

As a mining claimant, the mining laws provide you with considerable property rights and responsibilities. Like any landowner, you are liable for any injury that may occur as a result of casual public entry into unsafe areas, facilities, or improvements (shafts, tunnels, quarries or pits) claimed by you under the United States mining laws. As a mining claimant, you can help reduce unnecessary physical hazards on your mining claim. If your mining claim(s) have open adits, shafts or other hazards, we strongly urge you to block entry to the casual visitor. Prior to closure, please contact your local BLM or Forest Service office to discuss the methods to close it. In some cases, permanent closure may cause harm to wildlife in the area, and both the BLM and USFS can provide alternatives to block public access while allowing the improvement to be accessible to you and wildlife. If you are unsure how to address the physical safety hazard, we may be able to assist you with technical advice, guidance, and other kinds of support. Addressing the mine hazards on your claim can save lives and help you avoid potential liabilities. It is not only a good thing to do; it is the right thing to do.

For additional information check out the BLM Abandoned Mine Lands Web Site:

http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd/abandonedmineland/aml_public_safety.html

You can also contact your local BLM or Forest Service office for more information. To find your local offices you can visit: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en.html> and <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/>

Remember, Stay Out and Stay Alive!