



SEAT BELT ALERT

Safety and
Health
are Values!

September 15, 2005

Ten miners have been fatally injured in accidents involving mobile equipment this year in the metal/nonmetal sector of the mining industry. Investigators found that the victims in seven of the fatalities were not wearing their seat belts. These deaths might have been prevented if the victims had been restrained and protected by a seat belt. MSHA personnel will focus on seat belt usage during inspections.



Best Practices

- Always wear a seat belt when operating mobile equipment.
- Maintain seat belts in good operating condition.
- Never attempt to jump from a moving truck or machine.
- Conduct pre-operational checks to identify any defects that may affect the safe operation of equipment before it is placed into service. Maintain all braking systems in good operating condition.
- Operate mobile equipment at an appropriate speed for the conditions of the roadway, grade, visibility, and traffic.
- Thoroughly review the operator's manual during mobile equipment operator training and stress the importance of seat belt usage.
- Management should routinely observe and evaluate seat belt use by their miners.