



A publication of the
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association
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Oregon Independent Aggregate Association Newsletter

February 2023

Chairman's Message

MSHA's Vacaville office sent a letter to operators in the Western Region urging everyone to observe a safety stand-down to help curb the trend of increasing accidents in recent years. The request is to set a day aside in the coming weeks to discuss this trend and emphasize safety with miners. Their recent letter and associated flyer are attached.

Fortunately, many companies are in tune with this practice. In addition to the annual Part 46 training providing opportunities to emphasize relevant topics, operations typically provide training sessions throughout the year that focus on their site hazards or on specific practices to help miners be prepared. We are aware of some excellent and interesting training being done by some of our members. For example,

J. Davidson and Sons Construction held a mock emergency scenario requiring a life-flight rescue, where employees learned rescue techniques and safe helicopter access to a remote, forested location. Many operations hold focused training sessions for using safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, first aid equipment, and other topics. Utilizing MSHA fatality alerts to identify trends industry wide in conjunction with evaluating operations unique to your company is very helpful when planning special training. Start by asking yourself "what if" a particular event happens, then "what is our plan"? It won't take long to identify a topic to focus on and plan around. Most likely you will find something unique to your operation or something not yet encountered. With some networking and creativity, you may find your associates having fun with your interactive training session that puts them in a realistic scenario outside of a classroom setting.

We hope that the trends observed by MSHA can be abated through safety awareness. Sometimes simply looking out for each other and reminding people what they're doing could be done better can make a big difference.

Take care and be safe,

Erick Staley
Chairman

U.S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration Vacaville

991 Nut Tree Road District Office, Second Floor
Vacaville, California 95687



February 1, 2023

Dear Mine Operator,

MSHA continually monitors the number, types and severity of accidents that affect our Nation's miners. In the Vacaville district, we've noticed that the number of serious accidents reported by mine operations across the district have steadily increased over the past couple of years. As an industry, we must press the brakes to slow this trend down.

One way we can affect these accident trends is to take a time out to talk about safety with our miners. Safety stand-downs are not a new concept. General industry has used them for years to help companies and employees to focus on specific safety topics with positive results.

I am asking each mine operator, large and small, to set aside a day in the coming weeks to really talk about safety at your operation. I have attached a flier to this memo that point out some of our findings and provide some talking points. Please take a stand for safety and cover these topics, along with any other topics you feel are pertinent at your site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Hebel".

Gary Hebel

District Manager

Vacaville District

cc: Vacaville District Field Offices, MSHA Administrator, e-file

Safety Alert

Accidents have Skyrocketed in the Vacaville District!

The ugly toll: Five fatalities, eight miners totally or permanently disabled, 265 lost workday accidents, and 164 restricted duty injuries in the last 16 months.

- **760 serious injuries in the Vacaville District since Oct. 2021.** Six accident types stand out...
 - **Powered haulage:** Two fatalities and one miner disabled. 51 reportable injuries.
 - **Slip & fall:** One fatality. 169 reportable injuries.
 - **Machinery:** One fatality and two miners disabled. 85 reportable injuries.
 - **Hand tools:** One fatality. 74 reportable injuries.
 - **Engulfment:** One fatality in stockpile collapse.
 - **Material handling:** Three miners disabled. 214 reportable injuries.



Miners use three points of contact while mounting their equipment after the morning pre-shift inspection.

The trucks are clean and well maintained.



A contractor works without fall protection.

The scaffold is inadequate and the supervisor stands nearby.

Best Practices

- **Operate mobile equipment safely.** Pedestrians and smaller vehicles stay clear of large equipment, especially their blind spots. Inspect vehicles and correct defects before use, wear seat belts, set parking brakes and chock wheels when vehicles are unattended, maintain roads and berms, control vehicle and speed, communicate with other operators.
- **Prevent falls.** Use personal fall protection whenever working at height. Mount and dismount equipment using three points of contact, keep walkways clean and dry, maintain steps and handrails, set ladders properly and do not lean or overreach to the side.
- **Operate machinery safely.** Remove from service any machinery that is unsafe to operate. Ensure that machinery is deenergized, locked, tagged and securely blocked against motion before removing guards or beginning any maintenance work.
- **Select the proper tools, keep them in good condition and use them safely.**
- **Handle materials safely.** Use lift-assist and properly rated, properly rigged load hoisting and moving equipment. Use correct posture when lifting, carrying or using tools, and do not overexert or twist when handling loads manually. Use appropriate, properly fitted gloves, and keep hands and fingers out of pinch points.

Article courtesy of Adele Abrams

OSHA, MSHA Penalties Increase This Month

On January 15, 2023, federal OSHA's maximum penalties for willful and repeat violations will now be \$156,259 – up from \$145,027. Serious, other-than serious,(OTS) and failure to abate sanctions rise to \$15,625 (from \$14,502).

States that operate their own OSH Plans are required to adopt maximum penalty levels that are at least as effective as Federal OSHA's.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has a new top penalty of \$313,790 for flagrant citations, while their normal penalty range will be \$159 to \$85,580. Individual supervisor penalties under the Mine Act will also reach \$85,580, and citations for failure to notify MSHA of a fatality or life threatening injury within 15 minutes will have a mandatory minimum fine of \$7,133. Failure to abate MSHA citations will carry a potential sanction of \$9,271 per day. MSHA fines also apply to contractor working at Mine sites.

The new penalties are published in the Jan. 13,2023 Federal Register.

Attention OIAA member contacts

Our CPA prefers to email membership renewal invoices. Some of them are bouncing back. Please update the contact for your company that should be receiving these invoices.

Is there someone in your company that you would like to receive this newsletter? Please send information to memberreply@oregonaggregate.com

Newsletter and Training Notification email address updates

These past few years have brought many changes to some of our member companies. If you have had a change in personnel or added new personnel that you wish to receive this newsletter and information regarding our annual training please contact our secretary Kellie Ramar @ memberreply@oraggregate.com

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**Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 10th 2023
KPD office conference room in Springfield, Oregon**

memberreply@oraggregate.com.

Scholarship applications for our June 2023 Graduates will be available in May of 2023.

Our annual Part 46 training registration is now closed.