



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

January 2020

Chairman's Message

Randy Cardwell from the MSHA - Albany Field Office forwarded several documents highlighting mine fatalities in 2019 and contractor safety, which are included in this newsletter. MSHA has started a new initiative to hopefully help reduce accidents with contractors working at mine sites. Randy explained that MSHA inspectors will be handing this information out to the operators and contractors while conducting safety meetings at mine sites, during the course of regular inspections.

Please review these materials and be ready to engage your contractors regarding their safe work practices and responsibilities while on your site. Thanks to Randy for sharing this information and following up on our commitment to increase communication between MSHA and OIAA.

Be safe,

Erick Staley
Chairman

Since January 1, 2019, ten (48%) out of the 21 fatalities have claimed the lives of contractors working at our nation's mines. This is significant because contractors only make up 25% of the mining workforce. MSHA is requesting that mine operators take time out to talk to contractors about the causes of these accidents. We need to take action now to STOP the fatalities. Sharing information and discussing these recent accidents with your contractors can help avoid these types of accidents. Although it is a normal practice for mine operators to utilize contractors and contract workers to perform work on mine property, it is important to note that the mine owner (i.e., production operator) is equally responsible for assuring that ALL MINERS are properly trained, and that work on mine property is being performed in a safe manner, and in accordance with MSHA standards and regulations. The "Mine Act" defines "operator" to include both owner/production operators and independent contractors. Mine operators must pay careful attention to what is going on around them and to the work that contractors are hired to perform.

Consider these tragedies...

January 5, 2019 - a contract miner died when he was pinned between an air lock door and a concrete rib located near the shaft bottom. The victim was tracing electrical cables through the airlock.

January 14, 2019, a surveyor died after he was struck by a loaded shuttle car. The victim was measuring the mining height in an entry that was part of the travelway used by the shuttle car to access the feeder.

March 6, 2019, a contractor died when he was struck by a relief valve that was ejected from a 500-ton hydraulic jack. The hydraulic jack was being engaged to contact the frame of a shovel when the relief valve was ejected.

March 7, 2019, a contractor died when he lost his balance and fell backwards through a narrow gap between two log washers and landed on a cable tray approximately 12 feet below. The victim was changing drive belts on a log washer motor when his wrench slipped off of a bolt he was tightening.

June 10, 2019, a contractor died when he was pinned between a front-end loader and a concrete block. The victim was working in a conduit trench. The plant manager was using a front-end loader above to back fill the trench. The front-end loader travelled over the edge and toppled into the trench.

June 24, 2019, a contractor died when he fell beneath the wheels of a tractor-trailer. Miners were using a bulldozer to pull the tractor-trailer, which had become stuck in the sand.

July 31, 2019, a contractor died when multiple methane ignitions occurred in an air shaft. The victim and three contractors were preparing to seal the intake air shaft of an underground mine. At the time of the ignitions, the victim was trimming metal and was in direct line of the ignition forces.

August 2, 2019, a contract equipment operator was killed while descending the main haul road in a fuel/lube truck. The victim radioed that the truck's brakes did not work. The truck struck a berm at a runaway truck ramp, causing it to overturn. The victim was not wearing a seatbelt.

August 15, 2019, a contract electrician was working inside the electrical panel for a fire suppression system when he contacted a 120V cable and was electrocuted.

November 16, 2019, the owner of a contract company was killed when he was struck by a bulldozer operated by one of his employees.

The establishment of a safety culture at all mines is necessary to the safety and health of all workers at the mine. As such, mine operators, as well as contractors, are responsible for all mining activities being performed in a safe and healthy manner. Safety is a shared responsibility, which everyone should take seriously. Standards, regulations, and procedures protect you from hazards. Rules, regulations, and procedures protect you from known hazards.

To prevent mine injuries and fatalities:

Take the time to identify all hazards before you start the job, and take the time to plan out the job. Pay attention to what is going on around you!

- Ensure contractors are properly trained prior to beginning work.
- Monitor contractors to ensure safe work procedures are followed.
- Stay out of the line of fire to avoid being struck by equipment, tools or hazardous chemicals. Block/chock up machinery and equipment components and materials to prevent all motion. Stay clear of suspended loads.
- Control or release potentially hazardous stored energy. Work only after power is off. Always lock out and tag out electrically powered equipment. Wear proper PPE while troubleshooting.
- Examine equipment and correct defects before operating. Are the brakes capable of stopping and holding? Operate equipment at safe speeds & don't take chances.
- Provide generous berms along roadways and benches. Provide and follow traffic controls. Keep your eyes on the road. Put your cell phones away!
- Be aware of ground control hazards: sliding, falling, rolling materials, and caving ground.
- Personal Protective Equipment - only protects you when you use it. Wear hard hats, safety glasses, and safety-toed footwear when necessary.
- Use your seatbelt! Use your seatbelt! Use your seatbelt!
- Work from safe areas, or use properly adjusted and well-anchored fall protection harnesses and equipment.
- Perform a complete pre-job risk assessment and examination for safety defects.
- Assure contractors have the appropriate training plans in place and they are being followed.
- Communicate your position and intended movements to mobile equipment operators.

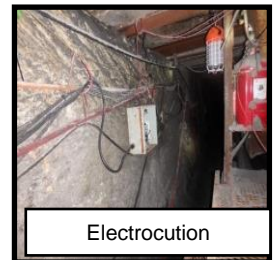
This initiative calls for ALL stakeholders to engage contractors, including their workers, on the job to STOP this trend and to assure that the contractors have the proper training to perform the work that they are required to do. As a part of this initiative, MSHA plans to perform "walk and talks" with inspectors and EFSMS personnel. The "talks" will focus primarily on contract workers and emphasize safety and training highlighting the fatalities we have had so far this year.

Mining Contractors:

Avoid Workplace Risks



**Eleven
contractors have
died in 2019**



Best Practices

- **Know the task.** Know the environment. Ensure miners are properly trained and are familiar with the mine environment.
- **Monitor miners** to ensure they follow safe work procedures.
- **Establish and discuss safe work procedures.** Identify and control all potential hazards and appropriate safety procedures.
- **Check equipment.** Before working identify any defects that may affect the safe operation of equipment.
- **Use safety gear.** Properly use PPE or safety equipment (e.g. fall protection, hard hats, safety glasses, electrical gloves, seat belts).



www.msha.gov
askmsa@dol.gov
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Report accidents and hazardous conditions
1-800-746-1553

MSHA Accident Analysis
Fatal Accidents
January 1, 2019 to December 27, 2019

23 fatal accidents in the mining industry in 2019

- 15 accidents occurred on the surface
- 11 contractors died
- 11 accidents at coal mines
- 11 miners with ≤ 1 year at the mine where they were fatally injured
- 8 miners with ≤ 1 year at the task
- 7 electricians/mechanics died
- 7 machinery accidents
- 6 powered haulage accidents
- 4 supervisors/managers died
- 3 electrical accidents
- 3 falling accidents
- 2 rib fall accidents
- 1 explosion accident



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Registrations are being taken for our March annual Refresher Training. If you have not yet signed up, please do so as soon as possible. Registration closes February 24th.



2020 Part 46 Annual Refresher

Roseburg class will be on March 9, 2020
Albany Class will be on March 10, 2020

Our 2020 Board Meeting Schedule

Board Meeting February 12th 10AM

Offices of KPD Insurance – Springfield, Oregon