



# DMM Safety Alert: Contractor Safety

As of February 18, 2015, four people have been killed in mineral mines nationwide. Two of these were contractor personnel. This, in addition to the seven contractor deaths in 2014, has prompted the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to issue the alert shown here. Year to year, contractors account for between twelve and fifteen percent of the man-hours worked on mine sites, yet at the same time accounting for thirty to thirty-five percent of serious and fatal injuries.

The Virginia Division of Mineral Mining reminds all mine operators to be certain that contractors working on their mine sites are properly trained, certified, and outfitted for the work being performed. To further assist in reducing accidents involving contractors, DMM recommends that mine operators check with contractors to ensure the following:

- Are they trained in hazard recognition and the specific hazards in their work areas?
- Are work area and equipment inspections being carried out as required by DMM regulations?
- Are hazards found during inspections being addressed as required by DMM regulations?
- Are procedures/practices being utilized in keeping with mine company policy and DMM regulations?

**CONTRACTOR FATALITY ALERT**

Two contractor fatalities to start 2015. Seven contractor deaths occurred in 2014.

- On January 11, 2015, a contract shaft miner was killed while riding on top of a skip in a ventilation shaft. The victim was caught between a support beam in the shaft and a handrail on the skip.
- On January 8, 2015, a sales representative was killed helping to change a screen liner on a screen deck.

**Best Practices**

- Monitor all personnel to ensure safe work procedures are followed.
- Establish and discuss safe work procedures. Identify and control all hazards associated with the work to be performed along with the methods to properly protect all persons.
- Prior to working, inspect your work area for hazards.
- Conduct pre-operational checks to identify any defects that may affect the safe operation of equipment before it is placed into service.
- Properly use PPE (such as fall protection, hard hats, seat belts, safety glasses) to protect against hazards associated with mining.