Following Proper Procedures

DMME
Division of Mineral Mining
2012
**Mine Operator’s Right Under Law**

- **45.1-161.292:4** says, in part:
  - The operator of every mine shall have the right to adopt special safety rules for the safety and operation of his mine or mines.
  - This section of the law further states that these rules shall be posted conspicuously around the mine or a printed copy of the rules given to the miners subject to them.
Establishing Procedures

- The mine operator’s responsibility:
  - Evaluate all tasks on the mine site and identify specific hazards.
  - Establish *written* procedures addressing those hazards. Post the procedures where practical.
  - Train all employees to recognize hazards and to know the correct procedures. This is a key element in task training.
The Miner’s Responsibility

- The mine operator can only do so much. After a point, the miners must assume responsibility for their safety. 4VAC25-40-190 requires miners to comply with all state safety and health regulations that apply to their task or duty. Key actions include:
  - Proper inspection of equipment and work areas prior to start of work and frequently during the shift. Report Hazards!
  - Do not perform a task unless you have been properly trained and are aware of company and state safety rules that apply.
  - *Always* follow proper procedures and use the safety equipment needed for the task.
  - Consult the owner’s/operator’s manual for the equipment manufacturer’s recommendations that may apply to service and maintenance activities.
Ensure Compliance

- Work activities must be observed to be certain policies and procedures are followed.
- A primary duty of the BMME certified foreman is to ensure that all activities under their supervision are conducted in a safe manner and in compliance with applicable state laws and regulations (4VAC25-40-120).
Lock-out/Tag-out

- One of the most important procedures.
  - What do regulations require?
  - What are your companies requirements?
- Do you always test to see if all energy is released?
- Is everything blocked against hazardous motion?
Manufacturer's Recommendations/Specifications

- When in doubt….  
  - Go by the book.  
  - If you can’t find the book, or the information you need in the book, pick up the phone.  
  - Don’t guess and hope for the best.

- The regulations require it!!
Intended Use

- Use tools and equipment only as intended by the manufacturer. Beware of field modifications or “homemade and handy”.
- Once modified, you don’t know what the capability or capacity is.
- Always ask yourself, “Was this thing meant to be used this way?”

Wire rope clamp/puller modified to pull conveyor belting involved in a “near miss” incident.
Capacities

- Know the capacities of the equipment you are using and the weight of the load you need to move, lift, etc.

- A number of fatalities in recent years have been due to lifting loads that were beyond the capacity of the equipment used.
Posting Hazards

- It is a shared responsibility to see that hazards are properly posted for the benefit of miners and visitors.
- Miners must report unsafe conditions to the certified foreman.
- If an unsafe condition found by, or reported to, the certified foreman cannot be corrected immediately, the affected area must posted and barricaded to prevent access.
Electrical Maintenance and Repair

- Installation and repair to be done in accordance with the National Electrical Code and Part XII of the regulations.
- All work to be done by, or under the supervision of, a certified or licensed electrical repairman.
- Inspections may be done by a competent person.
Safety Materials and Supplies

- 45.1-161.292:7 of the law requires mine operators to have on hand an adequate supply of those items needed to ensure the safety of the miners working on their sites.
- **Part X** of the regulations details the personal protective equipment and other materials to be used and available at the mine. **Parts V, XII, XIII** also specify materials to be available.
Ensuring Materials Are Used

- It does no good to have the required materials on hand if no one uses them.
- Through training and observation, the mine operator must ensure proper use. Miners must follow training/direction.
- Proper inspection and maintenance must be part of the training. Damaged PPE must not be used.
A Major Cause of Accidents

- A review and analysis of accidents plainly shows a majority are due to improper procedures and/or improper use of tools and equipment.
- The mine operator and the miners share the responsibility to ensure that proper procedures and equipment are in place and utilized.