



# DMM Safety Alert: Following Recommended Procedures

Year after year, many serious injuries and fatalities in the mineral mining industry are attributable to a failure to follow proper procedures. Equipment maintenance and repair activities are a major concern. Operation and repair manuals supplied by equipment manufacturers often lay out specific procedures to be followed. In cases where this information is not available, the manufacturer should be contacted directly for guidance. All persons involved with the work to be done should be task trained in the procedures recommended by the manufacturer. Virginia's Safety And Health Regulations For Mineral Mining requires miners to be trained in those regulations that relate to their job prior to performing a new task. Performing a Job Safety Analysis (JSA) prior to any non-routine task is a good way to ensure proper procedures are followed as well. Unfortunately, these steps are often not carried out. To aid in avoiding accidents, the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) recommends the following:

- Mine operators should ensure that equipment manufacturer's recommendations are accessed and followed by all personnel when applicable.
- When practical, written policies and procedures incorporating manufacturer's recommendations, DMM regulations, the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) standards, and company safety rules should be available for review by all personnel.
- Utilize Job Safety Analysis (JSA) or similar programs to ensure safe practices for all activities on the mine site.
- Review task training plans to ensure the full range of job activities are adequately addressed.

