

# DMM Safety Alert: Winter Work Precautions

The fall and winter months often see a slowing and shifting of operations on mine sites. New construction, maintenance activities, and repair projects are usually scheduled during this time of year. As a result, miners may find themselves working in areas of the mine where they don't normally work and performing tasks they are unfamiliar with. Contractors, often with little or no experience working on mine sites, may be brought in to complete various projects. Cold, wintry weather can also make working conditions hazardous. Historically, there has been an increase in the number of serious injuries and fatalities during the fall and winter months. Proper planning, training, and awareness will go a long way to reduce the potential for accidents. To help prevent accidents, the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) recommends the following:

- Maintain safe access to all work areas. Clear ice and snow as needed.
- Make certain all personnel have adequate clothing and PPE for their jobs and are trained how to properly use their PPE.
- Make certain all miner's task training is up to date for the tasks they will be performing. Also, ensure that training includes hazard recognition and work area inspection.
- Ensure that all contractors are aware of their responsibilities on the mine site, and that their personnel have the training and certifications that may be required.



**This is a good time to carry out inspections of your plant and related structures for deterioration and damage!**



**Make sure that your repair or new construction work does not adversely affect existing structures and equipment!**

