

**Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Mine Safety**

**Reportable Accidents**

The operator shall notify the Department no later than 15 minutes of discovery of an accident.  
“Accident” - An unanticipated event, including any of the following:

1. A death of an individual at a mine.
2. An injury to an individual that has a reasonable potential to cause death and/or serious injuries resulting in the injured being admitted to a hospital.
3. An entrapment of an individual at a mine for more than 30 minutes or which has a reasonable potential to cause death or serious injury.
4. An unplanned inundation by a liquid or gas.
5. An unplanned ignition or explosion of gas or dust.
6. An unplanned mine fire not extinguished within 10 minutes of discovery.
7. An unplanned ignition or explosion of a blasting agent or an explosive.
8. An unplanned roof fall at or above the anchorage zone in active workings where roof bolts are in use.
9. An unplanned roof or rib fall in active workings that impairs ventilation or impedes passage.
10. A coal or rock outburst that causes withdrawal of miners or which disrupts regular mining activity for more than one hour.
11. An unstable condition at an impoundment or refuse pile that requires emergency action in order to prevent failure or causes individuals to evacuate the area.
12. Failure of an impoundment or refuse pile.
13. Damage to hoisting equipment in a shaft or slope that endangers an individual or which interferes with use of the equipment for more than 30 minutes.
14. An event at a mine which causes death or bodily injury to an individual not at the mine at the time the event occurs.
15. An interruption to the mine ventilation system that results in withdrawal of personnel from the mine (fan stoppage) or an interruption that has the potential to create a hazardous condition (e.g. air reversal, short-circuit or blockage of the air current).
16. An unplanned connection into an adjacent mine, abandoned workings, or borehole.
17. All other incidents that could cause similar results as the items listed above.

If an accident/incident occurs and it is questionable as to whether it should be reported to the Department, please contact the Department to make a determination.

If the mine inspector, inspector supervisor, or managers cannot be reached, then the emergency telephone number **(1-800-541-2050)** for the Department of Environmental Protection will be used to notify the Bureau of Mine Safety.

The Bureau of Mine Safety will immediately, after becoming aware of an accident/unanticipated event, notify the operator whether the accident/unanticipated event is a reportable accident and if an investigation will be conducted.

The “Reportable Accidents” list and accident notification contact information sheet will be provided and shall be posted at all mines in appropriate locations and act as a guide when an unanticipated event occurs.

## **WRITTEN REPORTS TO THE DEPARTMENT:**

Each mine operator shall report to the Department each accident and lost time injury within 10 days of occurrence. Providing a copy of the MSHA 7000-1 Mine Accident, Injury, and Illness Report form is acceptable. Each accident and lost time injury shall be reported on a separate form.

Each mine operator shall also conduct its own investigation of the accident and develop a written report of the investigation. The report shall include all of the following:

1. The date and time of the accident and the Department representative notified.
2. The date the investigation began.
3. The names of the individuals participating in the investigation.
4. A description of the accident site and any alterations made to the site.
5. An explanation of the accident or injury, including a description of any equipment involved and relevant events before and after the accident.
6. An explanation of the cause of the accident.
7. An explanation of the cause of any injury sustained due to the accident.
8. The name, occupation and experience of any miner involved in the accident.
9. A sketch depicting the accident, including dimensions where pertinent.
10. A description of steps taken to prevent a similar accident in the future.

This report shall be provided to the Department upon completion of the investigation.

When an accident is reported, the Department will issue a verbal order (followed up in writing) to prevent the destruction of evidence or alteration of the site. The order will remain in effect until completion of all investigations pertaining to the accident. Only work necessary to rescue any individual and prevent destruction of mine equipment is allowed. Any plans to recover individuals or to return the affected areas of the mine to normal operations will require Department approval.