

November 25, 2014

TO: All Mine Operators

RE: Winter Alert

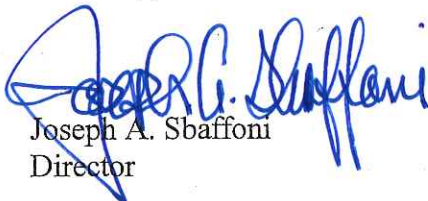
As the cold weather arrives, I want to alert all operations to pay attention to the increased hazards that occur during this season.

During the winter months, the falling temperatures and barometric pressure changes can increase the risk of fires and explosion. The cooler air during the winter season can also cause roof rock to expand and contract, thus increasing the possibility of a roof fall. More frequent examination of roof conditions is recommended during this time of year.

I urge all operators and miners to pay special attention to safe work practices, especially during the holiday season. Working together, we can make a difference. At our mining operations, our goal is to see that every miner returns home safely at the end of each shift. Please post this letter and the enclosed flyer at your operations.

I want to extend my best wishes to you and your families during the upcoming holiday season.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Scaffoni
Director

Enclosure

SAFETY ALERT

Winter

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Mine Safety
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Please post and use to communicate appropriate safety precautions to all employees:

FALLING BAROMETRIC PRESSURE, TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY

Hazards

- ◆ Leaks from sealed areas.
- ◆ Dry, dusty conditions.
- ◆ Air reversal from abandoned areas.
- ◆ Unstable roof due to contracting strata.
- ◆ Increased methane liberation.



Best Practices

- ◆ Monitor all seals for leaks.
- ◆ Clean-up and apply water or rockdust.
- ◆ Maintain bleeders and monitor air flows.
- ◆ Monitor roof and take down or support loose roof.
- ◆ Make more frequent methane examinations and maintain ventilation.



FREEZING WEATHER CONDITIONS

Hazards

- ◆ Increased stopping distance due to ice and snow.
- ◆ Slip/fall due to ice on walkways and ladders.
- ◆ Poor concentration due to cold stress.
- ◆ Heart attack due to increased stress.
- ◆ Increased fire hazard from thawing frozen pipes and increased use of heating systems.
- ◆ Frozen or stiff equipment controls.
- ◆ Hypothermia and frostbite.



Best Practices

- ◆ Reduce speed, remove ice and snow, and use anti-skid material.
- ◆ Clear ice and snow, use ice melt and maintain 3-point contact.
- ◆ Alternate work environments and stay focused.
- ◆ Pace activity to a safe level.
- ◆ Maintain adequate clearance for all heat sources and check heating systems.
- ◆ Warm up and check equipment before using.
- ◆ Layer clothing, limit exposure, and protect exposed skin.

HOLIDAY SEASON

Hazards

- ◆ Impairment from intoxicating substance.
- ◆ Poor concentration due to thinking ahead to off-the-job activities.
- ◆ Inadequate safe job skills due to inexperienced employees filling in for those on vacation.
- ◆ Fatigue due to increased work hours, off-the-job activity or reduced sleep.

Best Practices

- ◆ Don't mix work or driving with alcohol or drugs.
- ◆ Stay alert and focused on the job, anticipate what can go wrong.
- ◆ Increase training for temporary assignments; check understanding of safe job procedures.
- ◆ Don't overextend schedules, allow adequate rest.

