

Deaths in Metal / Non-Metal Mining
Extracts by Martin Isles, MPA/UEPG, April 2015

MSHA, the Mine Health & Safety Administration, is the industry-specific Regulator within the U.S. Department of Labor. The 'Alliance' comprises MSHA and the NSSGA, the construction aggregates trade association.

These 2 pages are extracts from information placed in the public domain by MSHA.

Fatality #25 - November 10, 2014
(Victim died January 17, 2015)
Falling Material - Virginia - Crushed, Broken Granite
R&S Stone, Inc. - R&S Stone, Inc.



On November 10, 2014, a 45-year old crusher operator with 3 years of experience was seriously injured at a granite mine. The miner was using a torch to cut a drill bit that was wedged in a jaw crusher when the bit freed and struck him. The victim was hospitalized and died on January 17, 2015, as a result of his injuries.

INVESTIGATION NOT COMPLETED

48

Fatality #24 - December 29, 2014
Powered Haulage - Texas - Common Clays NEC
Zeotech Corporation - Tilden Plant



On December 29, 2014, a 21-year-old warehouse bagger with 1 week of experience was killed at a clay mine. The victim was operating a forklift, hauling a bag of dust, when the forklift overturned.

INVESTIGATION NOT COMPLETED

47

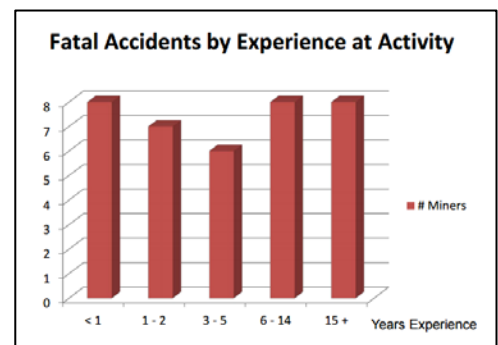
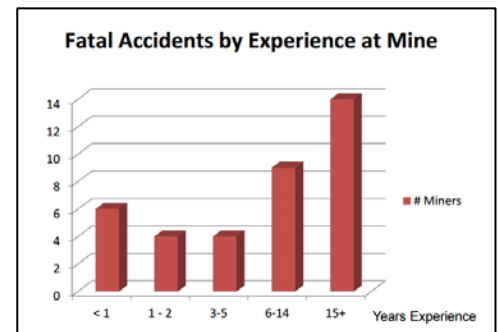
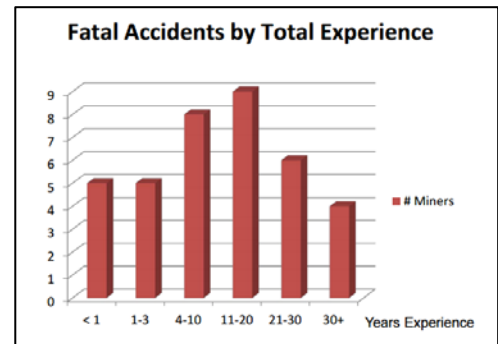
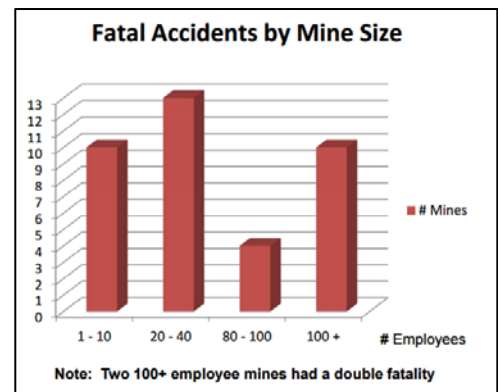
Fatality #22 - November 25, 2014
Powered Haulage - Pennsylvania - Crushed, Broken Sandstone
Edwards Sand & Stone - South Sterling Quarry



On November 25, 2014, a 67-year-old truck driver with 10½ years of experience was killed at a sandstone mine. The victim backed a haul truck to the edge of the overburden dumpsite and started to raise the truck's bed to dump a load of material. The bank failed, causing the truck to overturn and fall 30 feet below. The victim died in route to the hospital.

INVESTIGATION NOT COMPLETED

45



Fatality #7 -April 17, 2014
Machinery -Kansas - Construction Sand and Gravel
Hafenstine Construction - Hafenstine Plant #1

On April 17, 2014, a 58-year-old truck driver with 3½ years of experience was killed at a sand and gravel mine. An excavator was loading material in a haul truck parked at the pit. When the victim exited the truck, he was struck by the excavator bucket and pinned against the truck.



Fatality #21 - December 13, 2013
Falling/Sliding Material – Georgia - Construction Sand and Gravel
Brown Brothers Sand Company - Wittichen Stephen Plants

On December 13, 2013, a 53-year old utility worker with 19 years of experience was killed at a sand mine. The victim was standing near the edge of a bank when it collapsed engulfing him.



Recommendation for Fatality Summaries

The six fatality extracts (as shown) comprise useful summaries of the immediate causes. In the US, the term “Mine” covers both surface & underground.

In the 16 months from October 2013 to January 2015, 37 fatalities were recorded by MSHA (excl. Coal). These were categorised as below:

- 10 Underground; 27 Surface
- 10 Contractors; 27 Mine Employees

- 9 Powered Haulage
- 7 Falling/Sliding Material
- 5 Fall of Person
- 4 Machinery
- 3 Explosives
- 2 Fall of Rib
- 2 Electrical
- 2 Hoisting
- 1 Fall of Roof
- 1 Other (Drowning)
- 1 Explosion of Gas

- Supervisor – 9
- Miner/Laborer - 11
- Truck Driver – 7
- Scaler – 3
- Electrician – 1
- Dozer Operator – 1
- Mechanic – 2
- Plant Operator – 2
- Sales Manager – 1

NSSGA has amassed some key points about **Best Practices for Avoiding Fatalities**. They are shared below:

Provide new miner, refresher and task training so that miners recognize all potential hazardous conditions, and understand safe job procedures so that hazards can be eliminated before work is begun.

- Examine work areas to identify all possible hazards and eliminate them before beginning work.
- Before starting work, make sure that machinery power is off, locked, and tagged; similarly, make sure that machinery components are blocked against motion.
- Conduct pre-operational checks on equipment in order to identify any defects that may affect the safe operations.
- Provide timely and quality maintenance on mobile equipment.
- Assure that miners always wear a seat belt when operating mobile equipment.
- Assure that, where miners face a danger of falling, they wear fall protection.
- Provide and maintain guarding sufficient to prevent contact with moving machine parts
- Ensure that all active working areas are ventilated prior to allowing miners to work there.
- In blasting, assure that all persons are cleared and removed from blast area unless suitable blasting shelters are provided to protect persons from fly-rock.

With several fatalities having occurred after off-highway plant had breached inadequate edge protection, I would add:

- *Ensure all berms are a minimum of 1.5 m or the radius of the largest wheel/tyre – whichever is greater.*

The full Alliance presentation is online at:

<http://www.msha.gov/newsinfo/events/01-30-Fatality%20Prevention/mnm-fatals-inserted-jan29%20.pdf>