




State of West Virginia
Joe Manchin III, Governor

WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training
Ronald L. Wooten, Director
1615 Washington Street East • Charleston, West Virginia • 25311-2126
Telephone 304-558-1425 • Fax 304-558-1282
www.wvminesafety.org

TO: All West Virginia Coal Operators
FROM: Ronald L. Wooten, Director 
DATE: October 29, 2007
RE: Mine Fatalities

As you may or may not know another fatality occurred last night, (Sunday, October 28th) in a West Virginia coal mine. This is the sixth fatality recorded in West Virginia coal mines this year. Another death, which occurred earlier this year, will likely also be recorded as a mine fatality.

Each of the incidents referenced above, as well as the last fatality in 2006 occurred on a weekend day. This fact is troubling to me, as I am sure it is to others in the industry. It is imperative that when weekend work is scheduled (production or non-production), proper supervisory and safety staffing is provided.

As most of you are aware the West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training changed its work schedule earlier in the year to assure that inspections are made on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Our inspectors cannot be present in all mines all the time, but industry personnel are. I am asking that special attention be directed toward the weekend work environment in an effort to assure that this trend is reversed.

RLW:ks