



MINER DETAILS



Volume 5 Issue 6 WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training November 2000

BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

From the Director's Office

As everyone is aware, we are approaching the holiday season. This is traditionally a time for getting together with relatives and sharing in good times. It's also a time when many look forward to going hunting, taking golf outings with good friends, or taking vacation. All these things we look forward to doing. Unfortunately, this is also a season when we experience a high number of mine accidents and fatalities. While we are conducting our normal inspection duties we need to remind every coal miner, coal truck driver, and contractor of the danger of not keeping their mind on their jobs by anticipating upcoming vacation and holidays. Let us use our inspection time to contact each miner and have a safety talk about the hazards the upcoming holiday seasons bring. I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

I also want to extend my congratulations to everyone who participated in the National Mine Safety Instructors Conference. Our agency received three first place awards. Good work guys.

Agency Accomplishments

Information Technology Update

Within the next few weeks, you should see updated PC's on desks in all MHS&T offices. The agency plans to update approximately 20 of its aging PC's. The "new" machines will be 533 MHz. with 20 gig hard drives, sound cards and 50 speed CD-ROM's. These should be a vast improvement over the older machines.

Also, all offices should now be equipped to offer automated certification testing. Initial reports indicate that the system works well and is easy to use. Take a sample test for yourself and see how easy the new system is to use. Contact one of the safety instructors to sample a test.

If you haven't been to our website recently, please check it out. We have made several changes. The first change you will notice is the opening page, which has been radically re-designed. There are new pages and updated information on the older ones. If you have suggestions for more improvements, please let us know.

Publication Updates

The seventh edition of the West Virginia Electrical Study Guide is now available. This edition features an updated High Voltage Section, which goes with the high voltage panels. Also, the second edition of the pocket-sized Surface Mine Law book is now available.

Inside this Newsletter:

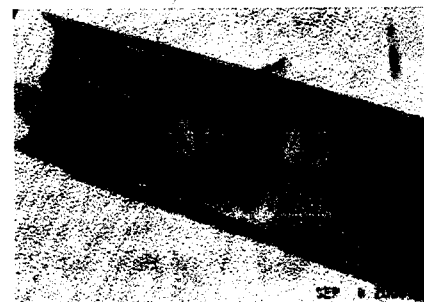
- *From the Director's Office*
- *Agency Accomplishments*
- *For Your Information*
- *Did You Know?*
- *Up Close and Personal*

For Your Information

Roof Control

The names of roof bolt systems can be confusing. Point Anchor, Torque Tension, Double Lock, Tension Rebar, Combination, etc., are all names of roof bolt systems

named by the manufacturer much the same as Ford or GM would name cars. However, there are only four basic types of roof support systems commonly used to support the mine roof. (1) *Conventional Roof Bolts* have an expansion shell or mechanical anchor that allows the bolt system to be placed in tension. (2) *Full Grout Resin Rods* made of deformed rebar has a resin or chemical anchor the length of the bar that locks the rod and roof together and resists movement. (3) *Mechanical Anchor, Resin Assisted* type bolts use both an expansion shell and one foot of resin, to enhance the anchor zone. These are normally used in soft roof to accomplish higher torque with stronger bolt systems. (4) *Tensionable Deformed Rebar* with approximately 4" of threads and a nut are normally used with at least two feet of resin that is mixed and held for a few seconds. A second spin is utilized to tighten the nut to the desired torque. This bolt can also have resin installed the full length of the bolt when a quick set resin is used on the top and a slow set resin is used on the bottom portion of the bolt. The slow glue allows tension to be applied, while achieving full bolt grout - a great idea!



(Photo shows correct installation of steel strap "Bolt up with flanges down.")

Safety Videos

MHS&T has completed two new training videos which are now available. One is "Dozer Stockpile Safety" and was produced as a result of several accidents involving dozers working on coal stockpiles. The second film is titled "Save Your Back" and shows proper lifting techniques. Coming soon are videos on Highwall Miners and Mine Battery Safety. Suggestions for future subjects are welcome. Copies of "Mining the New Millennium" are available for schools or the public.

National Safety Conference

The National Mine Instructors Conference was held at the National Mine Academy in Beckley, WV on Oct. 10 - 12, 2000. MHS&T was awarded first place for the development of Annual Retraining Materials. The Instructors Conference is sponsored by the US Dept. of Labor and involved the participation of 47 states and the Navajo Nation. Thirty-five different types of newly-developed training materials were submitted for judging. Our agency distributed over 100 training videos during the conference.

MHS&T at Bridge Day

Again this year, our agency participated in the annual Bridge Day celebration. This celebration has become the largest single-day festival in the state. MHS&T set up the Mine Rescue Van and handed out souvenirs to visitors.

Coal Stockpile Regulation

The new safety precautions for dozers working on coal stockpiles will become effective January 1, 2001. Title 36, Series 27 Section 5.1(b) 1-5 requires the enclosed cab be equipped with strengthened glass and/or a window support system. A two-way communications system with a back-up system, two self-contained self-rescuers, and a means of

emergency lighting for the mobile equipment operator must be provided. Also, a remote control device to stop the flow of coal from the stockpile and to stop the coal coming onto the stockpile must be in the cab and tested weekly.

Did You Know?

Flame Safety Lamps

Dr. Clanny in England invented the first safety lamp in 1813. He improved the safety lamp in 1842 by enclosing the flame in glass and installing the wire gauze above the glass. The result was a safer lamp that provided a good working light.

Material Handling Injuries

Manual material handling is the leading cause of injuries year after year. Let's do our best to help our industry address this problem. Look for proper storage of materials, proper clearances along walkways, encourage the use of forklifts and the banding and pallets of bulk materials like rockdust and brattice materials. Use BIT/JSA training to suggest better ways to handle materials safely. Encourage workers to pay closer attention to their working environment in underground supply areas.

College Education Funding

There is presently an "open enrollment" window until December 31 for the state sponsored prepaid college tuition program. This college savings program is available for your children and grandchildren through the WV Treasurer's office. For more information contact Marti Sigmon at 558-1425 ext. 26.

Up Close and Personal

Happy Birthday wishes to Art Shumate who turned 50, November 12.

The Newsletter Team wishes to thank Lloyd Collins who is leaving the team. Good Luck Lloyd.

Jim Whetsell of the Fairmont office spends his leisure time with his daughter and three grandchildren. Jim enjoys evangelism, studying Spanish, visiting Latin American countries, learning cultures, history, sharing Christ, distributing Spanish and English New Testaments, riding bikes, exercising, and working with International students at WVU.

Robert Lee True Jr. of the Buckhannon office spends his leisure time rabbit and deer hunting with his children. Bob enjoys outdoor activities with his family, farming and watching football and baseball.

Gilbert R. Witt of the Welch office spends his leisure time bird hunting and trout fishing with his children. Gilbert enjoys farming, raising cattle, and training bird dogs for field trials and family get-togethers.

Ken Frye of the Danville office spends his leisure time deer hunting with his brothers. Ken enjoys time with his grandchild, woodworking, four wheeling, watching football, basketball, Nascar and participating in church activities.



This newsletter is published bimonthly by the WV Office of MHS&T

Governor Cecil H. Underwood

Ron Harris, Director

Contact Person: Dave Kessler

Visit the agency's website at:

www.state.wv.us/mhst