



MINER DETAILS



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BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

Agency Accomplishments

New Regulation Proposed

A new regulation concerning surface haulage safety devices has been proposed. The regulation reads: Ninety days after the effective date of this section all trucks one hundred (100) tons and over operating on or around a surface mine or surface area of an underground mine will be equipped with cameras to improve visibility. Cameras are required to monitor the front of the vehicle, the offside and the rear areas of the truck. The monitor(s) shall be positioned in the cab so the operator can see all areas covered by the cameras. The offside camera will be operational at all times. The front camera will be activated automatically when the truck is placed in the forward gear and the rear camera will activate when the transmission is put in reverse. In the event of a camera malfunction, it must be corrected immediately. If circumstances occur where parts are not available, the Director may waive this requirement for a period not to exceed 48 hours. Maintenance, or other vehicles under 100 tons shall be equipped with strobe lights and whip antennas.

New Underground Diesel Forklift

The first piece of diesel equipment for the Oak Hill region began operating underground in October at the Brooks Run Mining Co. LLC, Upper Mercer mine located in Braxton County. A Mini-Trac forklift manufactured by A. L. Lee Corporation utilizing the approved Deutz 2011 engine was introduced into the mine after passing initial emission and temperature tests on Oct. 22, 2004.

The average untreated emissions of the first five consecutive one-minute tests was 150 ppm carbon monoxide. The average treated

emissions of the next five consecutive one-minute tests was 18 ppm carbon monoxide. The machine had 29 hours on the engine at time of testing and the baseline untreated carbon monoxide emission is expected to be approximately 150 to 170 ppm once baseline is determined at the first 100 hour test. These tests were made and recorded using a portable Ecom gas emission analyzer.

After passing initial emission and temperature tests on the surface, the forklift was trammed underground for diluted emission tests. Underground in 10,000 cfm air volume with a relatively low velocity of 55 fpm the diluted emissions were 8 to 12 ppm carbon monoxide and only two-tenths ppm nitrogen dioxide when measuring eight feet downwind of the machine exhaust with a hand-held detector. Lower emissions were measured at the operator's station after turning the machine so the operator station was downwind of the engine and exhaust. The carbon monoxide fell to 2 ppm and nitrogen dioxide to zero when tested at 10 feet and measuring downwind of the exhaust.

Written pre-operational checklists for the forklift were developed and provided for the operators to complete when performing pre-operational checks of the machine. Customized one-hundred-hour diesel checklists have been made available for the diesel mechanics. All inventory records, maintenance and training plans are in order at the mine and proper records are being made of the equipment emission and temperature tests.



Larry Wine, district inspector in the Oak Hill region, is shown here underground performing the diluted emission test at the operator's station of the Mini-Trac diesel forklift.

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Did You Know?

Mingo Logan Coal Co., Mountaineer II Mine, in Logan County, began development of a slope and two shafts in October of this year for the largest new mine project in several years. The Mountaineer II Mine plans to produce coal from two coal seams that the Mountain Laurel slope will intersect. One of the seams, the Alma will be set up for some longwall mining, but much of the Cedar Grove reserve will be mined with continuous miners. Also, a new preparation plant will be built at the site. The mine will employ several hundred miners in the Logan County area where low employment has persisted for several years.



Photo shows site preparation work at Mountain Laurel.

For Your Information

Tis' the Season for Holiday Safety Tips

When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness because a fresh tree is less of a fire hazard. The tree should be green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt should be sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles. Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help to keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard. When setting up a tree at home, place it away from ignition sources. Be sure to keep the stand filled with water, because heated rooms can dry live trees out rapidly.

Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples, not nails or tacks. Check all tree lights-even if you've just purchased them. Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections. Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks. Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. Do not overload outlets! Use surge protectors if multiple outlets are needed. Don't run cords through doorways or under rugs. Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. In

homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.

Fully cook meats and poultry, and thoroughly wash raw vegetables and fruits. Be sure to keep hot liquids and foods away from the edges of counters and tables. Wash your hands frequently, and make sure your children do the same. Always keep raw foods and cooked foods separate, and use separate utensils when preparing them. Always thaw meat in the refrigerator, never on the countertop. Foods that require refrigeration should never be left at room temperature for more than two hours.

Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open. Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

New Printed Materials

New electrical study guides and new small pocket sized underground lawbooks are available. The underground diesel regulations are included in the lawbook. Also, new inspector note pads are now available.

What's Cooking?

Peanut Butter Cookies

½ Cup butter
½ Cup peanut butter
½ Cup granulated sugar
½ Cup brown sugar
1 egg
½ tsp vanilla
1 ¼ Cup flour
¾ tsp soda
¼ tsp salt

Cream butter, add peanut butter, sugars, egg and vanilla. Add dry ingredients. Shape in 1 inch (1 ½ tsp) balls, roll in granulated sugar. Place 2" apart on un-greased pan. Use tines of fork to crisscross.

Bake 10 to 12 min. will make 4 doz. Cookies. Bake at 375°

Up Close and Personal

Recently, the Board of Miner Training Education and Certification honored **Tom Harmon**, electrical inspector in the Oak Hill Office, for his work in developing electrical training materials and programs. Tom is shown with his plaque in the photograph below. Congratulations Tom!



Steve Womack and **Kip Bell** both resigned and are now working for MSHA. We wish them success in their new careers. Welcome to **Hubert (Termite) Miller** who has been hired as a district inspector in the Danville office.

Congratulations to **Art Shumate** for achieving 30 years service to the State.



**Celebrate the Holidays
Responsibly- Do Not Drink
and Drive!**

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