

New Compliance Review - ARPA is reintroducing the Compliance Review to all of our members that will provide up to date information of our mining industry. We are welcoming back former Mesa Field Office's supervisor, Dave Brown. Dave semi-retired in February 2014 and began his own safety compliance company. He will be providing current Mine Safety and health information that will help our industry stay on top of compliance issues along with current trends in the industry. He has been working in Arizona as well as several other states providing compliance assistance. He is aware of the current trends including; fatalities, accidents, and citations that are highlighted in MSHA's current correspondence to our industry. Given his twenty years as a miner and an additional twenty years of government service, Dave will provide our industry with the necessary tools to protect our miners. New to the newsletter will be the opportunity to sponsor one of our monthly issues. Contact our office for more details.

MSHA Insight - On August 3rd of this month we lost three miners in separate fatalities across our nation. Not since 2002 have three miners died at metal/non-metal mines in a single day. In the past month alone, there have been five fatalities in our industry. MSHA has indicated through a letter to stakeholders that they will be stepping up enforcement efforts and intensifying outreach and education throughout the country. Both Coal and Metal/non-metal inspectors, along with training and educational field personnel will be engaged in "walk and talks" emphasizing a focus on violations commonly associated with mining deaths. MSHA will be looking for the types of conditions leading to these deaths and taking appropriate enforcement actions. Mine management needs to review the current workplace examinations and your competent persons responsible for identifying conditions which adversely affect safety or health. Please review the "Letter to Stakeholders" by following this link at <http://www.msha.gov/fatals/summaries/PreviousSummaries.asp>

MSHA Task Training - MSHA has been working especially hard over the last two years to find a solution to the fatalities in our industry. After reading the article above you should come to a conclusion that this is a very serious issue and they will do what is necessary to reverse this trend in mining deaths. In the recent Program Policy Letter, MSHA has clarified the importance of examinations of working places. In this letter they highlight terms used in enforcing this standard. This would include "competent person" and "working place" as well as introducing "task training". In the letter they indicate that if a competent person fails to identify multiple safety hazards it may indicate that task training did not occur. They also suggest that evidence of inadequate training of the competent person, if found, may be the basis for training plan revisions. How prepared are you? Do you have adequate competent persons providing workplace examinations? Please read and review your training at <http://www.msha.gov/REGS/COMPLIAN/PPLS/2015/p15-iv-01.asp>

Protecting the Miners - As we all know the more we understand the rules and regulations that protect our miners the safer our workplace. If you take a look at the violations associated with deaths of our mines over the last ten years you will see the pattern that MSHA is trying to break. Training your miners on the hazards in the workplace and how to avoid them is critical. Here are some steps you can take; Look at the top ten violations your company have received. Now look at the top ten violations issued to your industry across the United States. Compare them and see if there are similarities. Isolate the similar violations and work to eliminate them from your workplace. Be especially cognizant of the violations that are listed in "Rules to Live By". Plan to do extra research to eliminate the citations from existing i.e. better trained competent persons, more intense workplace examinations, repetitive review of the reoccurring violations at your mine and instill recommendations by MSHA's best practices. Joe Main says, "We need everyone's cooperation with efforts to reverse the trend in mining deaths. Our miners deserve nothing less".

Rules To Live By - Review and Research The Following:
Task Training 46.7 & 48.27
Operating Speeds & Control of Equipment 56.9101
Safety Defects affecting Safety 56.14100(b)
Wearing Seat Belts 56.14130(g)
Parking Procedures for Unattended Equipment 56.14207

Top Violations - 2015 How Does Your Mine Compare?
56.12004 - Conductors Exposed to Mechanical Damage
56.14107(a) - Guarding Moving Machine Parts
56.20003(a) - Housekeeping
56.14100(b) - Defects on Machinery, tools & Equipment
56.11001 - Safe Access to all Working Devices
56.14132 (a) - Horns and Warning Devices