

MINE ELEVATORS

Several entrapment accidents have occurred recently where mine elevators have stopped in the shaft hoistway or have failed to properly align with the landing such that the doors would not open. Elevators at mines and preparation plants share equipment common to elevators found in office buildings, schools, and hospitals. If an elevator stops in the hoistway, the safest course of action is to remain inside the elevator car. Elevators are equipped with a number of safety devices designed to prevent the elevator car from falling or running away. There have been two documented cases of an elevator car going into a free fall. One was during World War II, when an American bomber accidentally hit the Empire State Building and cut the elevator cables. The other was at a mine when a repair crew overloaded the elevator car during an attempt to change multiple cables at one time and caused the worn cables to snap. Another hazard is for the elevator car to over travel in the up direction and strike the headframe.



BEST PRACTICES

- ✓ **Watch your step when entering and exiting the elevator**
- ✓ **On elevators equipped with automatic doors do not interfere with the door operation**
- ✓ **On elevators equipped with manual doors do not slam or force the doors**
- ✓ **If doors don't open, ring button, and/or use the telephone to call for qualified people who can assist**
- ✓ **Never try to leave a stalled car. You can easily fall down the elevator shaft if the car is not aligned with the landing**
- ✓ **Conduct the required daily examinations and two month safety catch tests**

