



## SAFETY ALERT

### DANGER

### MOVING EQUIPMENT

Since miners began to dig coal, they were always thinking of easier, faster and more productive ways to get the coal from the face to the surface. Modern tools and equipment have evolved to help the miner in this process, but they have also created hazards which have cost some miners their lives. There has been an alarming upward trend of serious and fatal injuries involving miners who are being crushed, run over, pinned by, or struck by, moving mining equipment.

Since January 1, 2010, five miners have been fatally injured in accidents involving moving face equipment. Two continuous miner operators were crushed between the rib and the continuous mining machine, two miners were crushed when they were run over by a shuttlecar or ramcar, and a continuous miner operator was crushed between the rib and a shuttle car. Other accidents involving continuous miners, shuttlecars, ramcars, scoops, and roof bolters running over or crushing miners have resulted in serious injuries.

Year after year since mobile equipment has been in use, miners have been crushed, run over, pinned by, or struck by, moving equipment. These accidents CAN BE prevented. One way is by getting our brain into a habit of thinking through and applying "Best Practices", BEFORE we move that piece of equipment.

### BEST PRACTICES

- Never position yourself in an area or location where equipment operators cannot readily see you.
- Wear reflective clothing to ensure high visibility when necessary to walk or work near moving equipment.
- Before operating mobile equipment, always ensure that other miners are not in the area of your intended travel.
- Sound warnings when starting and tramming equipment, and when the operator's visibility is obstructed, such as when making tight turns, reversing direction, or approaching curtains.
- Use translucent curtains wherever possible to enhance visibility.
- Install and maintain electronic proximity detection devices. [See the proximity detection single source page on the MSHA website.](#)
- Develop proactive programs, policies, and procedures for starting and tramming equipment such as sounding an alarm or blowing a whistle.
- Train all production crews and management in the programs, policies, and procedures and ensure that they are followed.
- Ensure that mining machine operators are in a safe location while tramming the continuous mining machine from one location to another, or in the entry during cutting and loading.
- Ensure everyone is outside the machine's turning radius before starting or moving the equipment.

**REMEMBER:**  
Safety depends upon what you  
DO or DON'T DO.