



**MSHA's Accident Prevention Program
Miner's Tip
Parking Mobile Equipment Safely**

**SAFETY
IS A
VALUE!**

TO: Mine Operators, Maintenance Shops, Mechanics and Miners.

Several fatalities and near misses have occurred over the years at surface and underground mines when unattended parked vehicles ran away. In some instances, the incorrect brake was applied and as air or hydraulic pressure leaked off, the brake released. In other situations, the park brake was either not set at all or was in need of adjustment.

It is possible for a vehicle to be stationary when the driver leaves the vehicle, but roll away afterwards.

BEST PRACTICES

- Apply the correct brake when parking.
- If practical turn off the engine and take the key.
- Ensure that the wheels are chocked.
- Fully engage the parking brake.
- Ensure the parking brake has been tested and is working properly during the pre-op inspection.
- Place the manual transmission in the lowest gear or in reverse.
- Find a safe place to park, ideally the most level area available and never above areas where persons are working. Do not park in haul roads or travelways.
- If equipped with a blade or bucket, lower it to the ground.
- Turn the wheels into the rib, berm, or toward the highwall face.

SUPERVISORS and MINERS

- Supervisors: Ensure miners, maintenance crews and mechanics are familiar with the operator's manual. Include it as part of their task training.
- Conduct manufacturer prescribed brake performance tests (pull through tests) as a regular part of pre-shift inspections.
- Miners: Report defective brakes on the pre-operational inspection checklist. Ensure that supervisors are aware of known and potential brake problems.
- Miners: Do not operate unsafe equipment.
- Air or hydraulically applied brakes are not to be used for parking.

Never try to jump back in the cab to regain control of a runaway vehicle.