



Inspector's View

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Volume 3 × March 2024

**The Arizona State Mine Inspector's Office, SERVING ARIZONA, SAVING LIVES,
Committed to Safety. Protecting the lives of Arizona Miners.**

FOCUS:

All the numbers have been calculated for 2023. How does Arizona stack up? The US saw a spike in mining fatalities in 2023 with 40 miners losing their lives, a 33% increase over 2022. Arizona had ZERO fatal incidents in 2023. Since 1912 there have only been 6 years in state history that the Arizona mining industry has not had a fatal incident, 1994, 2003, 2014, 2018, 2019, and 2023.. The Arizona Lost Time Accident Rate dropped from 2.2 in 2022 to 2.1 in 2023, but we still have much work to do to get to the national average rate of 1.3. **Overexertion** continues to be the leading lost time accident in 2023 with 40 reported incidents, followed by **falls from the same level or below** with 23 reported incidents, third was **struck by or against** with 21 reported incidents, fourth is **contact with or by** with 14 reported incidents, and fifth is **caught on or in between** with 11 reported incidents. In total the Arizona State Mine Inspector's Office had a total of 112 lost time accidents reported, an increase of 11 lost time accidents over 2022. While we are improving, we must do better to protect our miners from hazards in the workplace.

FEBRUARY'S TOP 5 WRITTEN VIOLATIONS:

- Guarding Machinery: 27-313-A.** All moving parts of machinery to which workmen may be exposed shall be adequately guarded. Guards shall conform to the standards set forth in the rules.
Guarding Machinery: 27-313-B. A guard or safety device necessary for safe operation which has been removed from any machine shall be replaced before the machine is returned to productive operations.
Design of Guards: R11-1-505. Guards shall be properly designed and sufficiently strong to provide the required protection and withstand the wear of normal operation.
- Fire Extinguisher: R11-1-304.4** Fire extinguishers and fire suppression devices shall be inspected, tested, and maintained at regular intervals according to the manufacturer's recommendations, and a record showing the date of same be kept by the operator for a period of one year and be made available for review by the inspector.
- Electrical Violations: R-11-801.** New electrical equipment shall be installed, maintained, and used in accordance with the National Electric Code. 2. **Unsafe Equipment: R11-1-531.** Unsafe equipment or machinery presenting an immediate danger must either be repaired immediately or be otherwise rendered not subject to further use until repaired.
- Warnings from Unusual Hazards: R11-1-138.** Warning signs and/or lights, ropes and temporary guards shall be placed in order to give adequate warning from all unusual hazards.
- Unsafe Equipment: R11-1-531.** Unsafe equipment or machinery presenting an immediate danger must either be repaired immediately or be otherwise rendered not subject to further use until repaired.

SAFETY SHARE:

March's Safety Share is on **Overexertion in the Workplace**. *Please feel free to share.*

If you have a topic that you would like to see, or share, please send to publicinfo@asmi.az.gov

BEST PRACTICE OF THE MONTH:

March's Best Practice of the Month is **Drug and Alcohol Use in Mining** submitted by Anthony Kintz from Rebel Mine Safety Consultants.

Submit your best practice, by sending it to publicinfo@asmi.az.gov to have it featured in an upcoming newsletter.