



Inspector's View

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

FOCUS:

Covid has had a significant impact on our industry, but has it had a negative effect on safety at your site? Judging based on the statistics, most likely that answer is **YES**. Mining fatalities continue to rise from a lowest ever, twenty four in 2019, to twenty nine in 2020, and then a staggering thirty seven in 2021. Seventeen have already occurred in 2022. In Arizona, Lost Time Incidents have increased over the last 2 years, as well as violations written by the AZ State Mine Inspector's Office. So how has Covid changed your operation? Are your safety meetings being held virtually or are they in person? Was your Annual Refresher Training held as a group where all participants can take advantage of in-person training? In person training allows for questions, participation, & everyone present will learn the answers, working together as a group. Has your company resumed their internal safety audits? Safety audits are a great tool to assess risks & identify hazards. Internal audits can help you spot problems early, before they become big issues or are discovered by an external auditor. Are you relying on external auditors such as MSHA and ASMI to be your auditor? MSHA has had a reduction in inspections over the past few years, leaving longer periods between inspections at your location, & thus allowing unsafe conditions to exist. Covid has affected our training, our safety professional's day to day interactions, & most importantly, it has affected the men & women working in our mines. It is time that we make safety personal again, & put the same commitment to protecting our miners from risks at the mine site, as we did to protect them from Covid.

July's TOP 5 WRITTEN VIOLATIONS:

- 1. Electrical Violations: R-11-801.** New electrical equipment shall be installed, **maintained**, and used in accordance with the National Electric Code.
- 2. Sulfuric Acid Fittings and Other Equipment: R11-1-1518.B.** The pump glands, flanged fittings, and valve stems will be provided with splash shields or collared in cases where personnel would be exposed to acid leaks or sprays if acid should escape. The use of colored shields will assist personnel in detecting incipient leaks before they become serious.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Cyanide Emergency Provisions, Cyanide Antidote Kits: R11-1-2204.A.** Approved cyanide antidote kits of treatment of cyanide poisoning shall be made available at workplaces where cyanide used, stored, or handled or where there is a potential for exposures to hydrogen cyanide gas or dry or solution cyanide contamination.

SAFETY SHARE:

August's Safety Share is on the Importance of Workplace Exams and Audits. *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:

August's Best Practice of the Month, was submitted by Adrian Reaux from EMPIRE-CAT and is **KNOW THE RISK, CHECK YOUR 6**. Thank you Adrian and EMPIRE-CAT for your submission.

Please submit your best practice to be featured in next month's newsletter. Send to publicinfo@asmi.az.gov

The Arizona State Mine Inspector's Office, will unfortunately not be able to host a Fall Mine Safety Conference as we had planned in October 2022. We will work diligently to bring an event to the Mining Industry in 2023.
