



BEST PRACTICE OF THE MONTH

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LOADER AND WASTE STOCKPILES

Arizona has had its share of embankment failures resulting in serious injuries. The very first point we want to make is, **wear your seat belts**. Unbuckling your seat belt to jump clear does not work out well. That only seems to work in the movies. This equipment was designed for your protection, so please use its designed safety features.

The material being dumped at loader stockpiles to supply our crushing plants or material that may have a use later as borrow or fill for reclamation purposes is loose, unconsolidated and unstable. Mine operators typically pull from these stockpiles from the base of the pile and replenish from the top. Workplace inspections and the offload sites of the material must be continually inspected for unsafe dumpsite conditions. **R11-1-636 Where there is evidence that the ground at a dumping place may fail to support the weight of a vehicle, loads shall be dumped back from the edge of the bank.**

Best Practice:

Have a policy / procedure specific to your mine and needs. Assign responsibilities and inspection requirements. **Train your miners to your policy and supervise your miners to your policy.**

What ASMI encounters in the field:

- Dumping short and then pushing over the edge with a Dozer or the Wheel Loader.
- Two completely separate loader stockpiles (LSPs) or single stacking the material.
- Demarcation of the stockpile edge with tires or windrows or the use of spotters.

Administrative Control Examples:

- Day shift pulls from the pile while the night shift replenishes the stockpile.
- Demarcation of a North, South, East and West side of a stockpile and then loading from one side and replenishing from the other side.
- The use of berms at the toe of the stockpile to prevent the loader from loading from the same location as the haul trucks are replenishing the stockpile.

The excuse of “its common sense” is not working. The mining industry should be proactive with an approach that makes sense. Let’s not wait until Government Regulations require the implementation of a one plan fits all and a make fit approach.



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