



Inspector's View

Paul D. Marsh, Arizona State Mine Inspector

Volume 3 × May 2022

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

FOCUS:

May, sadly, marks the 50th anniversary of the Sunshine Mine disaster, where **91 men perished** due to carbon monoxide exposure, after a fire broke out at the Sunshine Mine in Kellogg, Idaho on May 2, 1972.

The Sunshine fire exposed weaknesses in the administrative setup of the safety and health program for metal and nonmetal miners and, as a result, served as the catalyst for the Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act). While mining regulations are typically unappreciated, and unwelcome, it is clear to see the significant positive impact that the tragic Sunshine Mine Disaster has had on the mining industry by virtue of increased regulation. So as you read this, I ask that we all take a moment to pay tribute to the fallen miners, and acknowledge the work that your ASMI and MSHA Inspectors have made to the mining industry.

APRIL's TOP 5 WRITTEN CITATIONS:

1. **Unsafe Equipment: R11-1-531.** Unsafe equipment or machinery presenting an immediate danger must either be repaired immediately or be otherwise rendered no subject to further use until repaired.
 2. **Electrical Violations: R-11-801.** New electrical equipment shall be installed, **maintained**, and used in accordance with the National Electric Code.
 3. **Unsecured Gas Cylinders / Valves: R-11-309.** Valves on oxygen and acetylene tanks shall be kept closed when the contents are not being used.
 4. **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.
 5. **Unsecured Mobile Equipment: R11-1-507.** Mobile equipment shall be secured against accidental movement whenever the equipment operator leaves the equipment.
-

SAFETY SHARE:

May's Safety Share will be on Fatigue 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:

May's Best Practice of the Month, was submitted by Tim Evans, Assistant State Mine Inspector, regarding embankment failures on Loader and Waste Stockpiles.

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

DID YOU KNOW:

Arizona has approximately 100,000 abandoned mines. These abandoned mines can present hazards to both miners and Arizona Citizens. The Arizona State Mine Inspector's Office is working with Federal, State and Local officials to identify and close these abandoned mines.

Call the office @ 602-542-5971 if you have questions or comments regarding abandoned mines in Arizona.
