



## First Professional Miners Take the Pledge



Front Row, Left to Right: Doug Conaway, President of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association; J. Steve Potter, Virginia; Elaine Haussecker, Texas; Lilliam G. Vergara, New Jersey; Joseph Krause, Texas; John Riggi, Pennsylvania; Dave D. Lauriski, former MSHA Assistant Secretary; Second Row, Left to Right: Stephen Bolling, Virginia; Justin Ellis, Virginia; Eric Kechejian, New York; Michael Carpenter, West Virginia.

Doug Conaway, extreme left, president of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association, and Dave Lauriski, former MSHA Assistant Secretary, on the far right, pose with the first group of miners to be officially recognized as "Professional Miners" in recognition of their years of working in the mining industry without experiencing an accidental injury on the job. Lauriski called the honored miners "...pioneers at the forefront of a new day in mine safety and health history, leading us to an even safer, more healthful and productive American mining industry."



*Message from Doug Conaway  
President, Joseph A. Holmes  
Safety Association*

**C**ongratulations on becoming a Professional Miner. Your dedication and willingness to be a positive role model to other miners is an important next step in reducing accident and injuries and health related illnesses in the mining industry. We welcome you to our first newsletter. This is a first-step in bringing important health and safety information directly to you, the Professional Miner.

In this first newsletter we have chosen to recognize those miners who became the very first Professional Miners to take the pledge to serve as a positive role model for other miners, and as a mentor for new miners. There is no better time to serve as a mentor for new miners. The industry is changing rapidly, as many experienced miners are planning their retirements; a new group of inexperienced miners are entering the mining workplace. Your wealth of experiences, passed along to these new miners, can only help keep our industry on the positive track of preventing reportable accidents, fatals and occupational illnesses.

We have also included in this newsletter an overview of the SLAM RISKS initiative. This initiative introduces a simple but effective process for identifying potential risks in your work place. We are asking you to use the SLAM RISKS steps before doing any work, particularly work that you have not done before or for an extended period of time. As you apply these steps we ask that you also share them with your fellow miners.

Again, congratulations on joining the ever growing ranks of Professional Miners.

**SLAM RISKS work at home too!**

One way to fulfill the Professional Miners pledge is by following the SLAM RISKS initiative and make it a part of every task you do.

**SLAM = Stop  
Look  
Analyze  
Manage**



**Did you know:** There are 43 minerals in a telephone; every year we burn 7-1/2 tons of coal and use 23-1/2 tons of minerals per person.

**Remember:** Always use appropriate personnel protective equipment

# SLAM RISKS

Failure to recognize and control hazards is a contributing factor in many accidents. A properly conducted risk assessment could save lives. Mine operators, supervisors, miners, and contractors must take proper precautions before performing a task. They can prevent accidents by conducting risk assessments **before and during their workdays** and by controlling hazards they find. Here are some steps to take for conducting a thorough risk assessment:

## SLAM

**STOP**— Stop and consider the work involved

Think about the task. Can you do it? Do you have all the necessary training, knowledge, and skills to do this job safely? Is it a one-person task or do you need help? Will performance of this task affect others?

**LOOK**— Look for and identify the hazards

Have you identified potential hazards for each step of the task?

**ANALYZE**— Analyze what needs to be done

Do you have the:

Right tools?

Appropriate personal protective equipment?

What:

Is the right job procedure?

Could go wrong?

Can you:

Avoid the hazard?

Eliminate the hazard?

**MANAGE**— Manage safety by developing and implementing controls

If you can't eliminate the hazard notify the boss  
Is everyone around you aware of the work being done?

Is everyone around you aware of the work being done?

## RISKS

**REMEMBER**— Always make risk assessment part of your activities

Because risks can occur at any time, make sure to SLAM even the most routine task.

**IDENTIFY**— All potential risks and hazards and how to correct them

Include others in the SLAM process as well.

**SHARE**— What you find with others impacted by the task

Alert others of any potential hazards in the area.

**KNOW**—What others on your jobsite are doing

Pay attention to other workers around you; they may introduce hazards into the jobsite.

**SAFETY**— Commit to working safely

As a Professional Miner you are a positive role model for others. By including others in SLAM RISKS you are continuing to demonstrate your pledge as a role model and mentor for others.

“To be able to lead others, a person must be willing to serve as a positive role model and a mentor for new miners.”

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please use the information below. Remember to include your e-mail address. For verification purposes, please include your name and mailing address.

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