

JANUARY 1985



BULLETIN



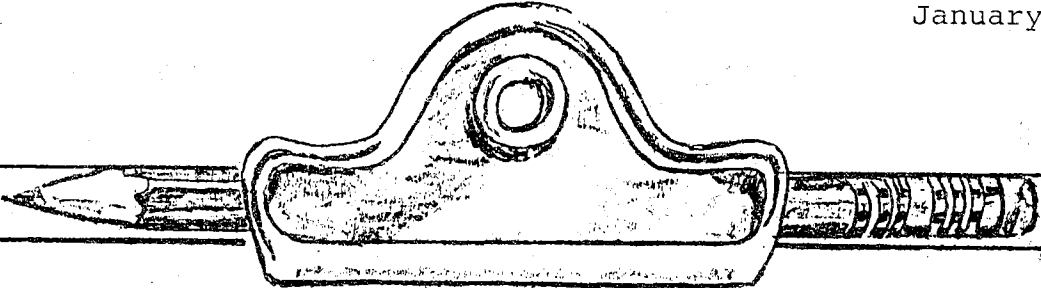
**Make A
Safety Drive
In "85"**

THIS SAFETY BULLETIN CONTAINS SAFETY ARTICLES ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, FATAL ACCIDENT ABSTRACTS, STUDIES, POSTERS AND OTHER SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PRESENTATION TO GROUPS OF MINE AND PLANT WORKERS.

AS GROUP SPOKESPERSON, LEADER OR SUPERVISOR, YOU PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR YOUR COMPANY. THE WAY YOU TALK, THINK AND ACT ABOUT SAFETY DETERMINES, TO A GREAT EXTENT, THE ATTITUDE YOUR COWORKERS WILL HAVE ABOUT SAFETY.

THIS MATERIAL, FUNDED BY THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, IS PROVIDED FREE AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT ON-THE-JOB SAFETY MEETINGS. IT MAY BE USED AS IS OR TAILORED TO FIT LOCAL CONDITIONS IN ANY MANNER THAT IS APPROPRIATE.

PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED GREEN MEETING REPORT FORM TO RECORD YOUR SAFETY MEETINGS AND RETURN TO THE HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION, POSTAGE-PAID.



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January 1985



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Muskingum Mining Inc.	5659	Dresden, OH
St. Clair Lime Co.	5660	Marble City, OK
Ideal Basic Industries	5661	Ada, OK
Unimin Corp.	5662	Michigan City, IN
Bassett Products Co., Inc.	5663	Monticello, KY
Belfry Coal Corp.	5664	Thealka, KY
Old McDonald Coal Corp.	5665	River, KY
Keffler & Rose Enterprises	5666	Minerva, OH
ASARCO Inc.	5667	Mascot, TN
Signal Mountain Cement Co.	5668	Chattanooga, TN
Cavalier Mining Corp.	5669	Wise, VA
The Avoca Co. Inc.	5670	Dundon, WV
Augment Inc.	5671	Bald Knob, WV
P & M Coal Co.	5672	Kemmerer, WY
Ernst Gravel	5673	Piqua, OH
Metro Industries Comp. Inc.	5674	Buchanan, PR
Peabody Coal Co.	5675	Morganfield, KY
Peabody Coal Co.	5676	Morganfield, KY
A & F Coal Co.	5677	Equality, IL
Arclar Coal Plant	5678	Equality, IL
Carter Coal Corp.	5679	Cutler, IL
Wheelwright Mining Inc.	5680	Price, KY
Mid-South Coal Co. Inc.	5681	Dewitt, KY
Cardinal Mining, Inc.	5682	Salem, OH
Blue Ridge Mining Co., Inc.	5683	Luttrell, TN
Seminole Ag. Lime, Inc.	5684	Shook, MO
Germany Valley Limestone	5685	Riverton, WV
The France Stone Co.	5686	Toledo, OH
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The France Stone Company	5692	Toledo, OH
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C & N Coal Co.	5696	Virgie, KY
Ambler Exploration, Inc.	5697	Anchorage, AK
American Pumice Products, Inc.	5698	Inyokern, CA
Yellow Banks Clay Prod.	5699	Huntingburg, IN
Webber Sand and Gravel	5700	Edgerton, OH
Neer's Sand and Gravel	5701	Bellefontaine, OH
Material Producers, Inc.	5702	Davis, OK
Shamokin Filler Co.	5703	Shamokin, PA
Fountain Bay Mining Co. Inc.	5704	Coeburn, VA
McClure River Coal Co.	5705	Trammel, VA
Opi-Western Joint Venture	5706	Casper, WY
Medusa Cement Co.	5707	Charlevoix, MI
Six B Coal Company	5708	Grundy, VA
Joson Coal Corp.	5709	Regina, KY
Wake Stone Corp.	5710	Knightdale, NC
Silver Sand Co. of Clermont	5711	Clermont, FL
Missouri Gravel Co.	5712	Florence, IL
Markgraff Materials	5713	Rowe, IL
E. Wiene Sons Const. Co. Inc.	5714	Galena, IL
Dubuque Sand & Gravel Co.	5715	East Dubuque, IL
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Cold Spring Granite	5719	Rockville, MN
Cold Spring Granite	5720	Richmond, MN
Cold Spring Granite	5721	Isle, MN
Cold Spring Granite	5722	Milbank, SD
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Cold Spring Granite	5724	Milbank, SD
Madison Granite	5725	Glendale, AZ
Reed Quarries, Inc.	5726	Bloomington, IN

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<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>CHAPTER NO.</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Delta Mining Corporation	5727	Mill Creek, OK
Sadler Materials Corporation	5728	Sandston, VA
Reiss Viking	5729	Tazewell, VA
APAC-Virginia, Inc.	5730	Midlothian, VA
Big Bear	5731	Lynco, WV
Sherman Lester Coal Corp.	5732	Burnwell, KY
McQuiston Coal Co.	5733	Bessemer, PA
Black Diamond Energies	5734	Frostburg, MD
LTV Lime Plant	5735	Grand River, OH
Kocher Coal Co.	5736	Tower City, PA
Luck Stone	5737	Goochland, VA
Aggreco	5738	Conroe, TX
Peabody Coal Co.	5739	Montcoal, WV
Lawrence Gravel Inc.	5740	West Union, IL
SME Middlebranch	5741	Middlebranch, OH
Tammy Sue Coal Co., Inc.	5742	Drill, VA
Oliver Mining Co.	5743	Cumberland, MD
Lawrence Gravel Inc.	5744	West Union, IL
Richland Contracting	5745	Barbourville, KY
Daft Pits	5746	McArthur, OH
Sunset Mining Co.	5747	Wolf Creek, OR
Patrick Coal	5748	Harmon, VA
Zimmerman Gravel Co.	5749	Milford, IN
Phelps Mining, Inc.	5750	Phelps, KY
U. S. Steel Corp.	5751	Rogers City, MI
U. S. Steel Corp.	5752	Cedarville, MI
North Carolina Phosphate Corp.	5753	Aurora, NC
Black Rock Construction, Inc.	5754	Holbrook, AZ
Vulcan Materials Company	5755	Miami, FL
Vulcan Materials Company	5756	Miami, FL
Vulcan Materials Company	5757	Pembroke Pines, FL
Concrete Service Corp.	5758	Linden, NC
Buffalo Mining Company	5759	Lorado, WV
Buffalo Mining Company	5760	Lorado, WV
Mar-Mac Coal Co.	5761	Lorado, WV



H.S.A. SAFETY TOPIC

The New Year

This is the beginning of a new work year and the time to make a fresh start. All unsafe practices should be discarded and new ideas added to those that have proved effective.

Many persons, recognizing the need for personal improvement, will compile a list of their bad habits and, by considerable soul-searching, will attempt to improve as individuals by discarding one or more of these habits.

Can we set our goals too high? Not likely, especially when our lives are at stake. Naturally, not all of your work habits are bad, so all that is necessary is a refinement of the safe practices that we know and discuss each shift. You know to thoroughly examine the roof, face and ribs before beginning any work but are you always sincere in your efforts? In the handling of your equipment, are you always aware of the potential dangers that could produce an injury if you fail to always keep a clear mind?

We have improved our safety record over the years, but that isn't good enough. We must improve until an injury in our industry is a rarity instead of commonplace.

Improving our safety record isn't just to better our standing on a chart or on our company's book. Improving our record means happier families, steadier work and freedom from pain and suffering.

Let's all resolve to work safely during 1985 and help to lower the figures on the accident chart.



HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION

WRITING THE MINUTES OF A MEETING

Minutes are the records of the action taken at formal meetings. The precise form the minutes take varies with different organizations. Usually, files contain sample forms, or records of previous minutes, which may be followed.

Minutes are not recorded verbatim. The substance of a meeting should be stated in as few words as possible. Language is formal, and above all objective. Do not use phrases such as "interesting" meeting or "delightful" hour.

The following is the preferred order for stating minutes:

1. Name of group or committee holding the meeting.
2. Kind of meeting: Whether it is annual, regular, special, etc.
3. Time, date, and place (in that order).
4. Name of presiding officer.
5. Names of members present, or simply the number present.
6. Approval or correction after reading of previous minutes.
7. Unfinished business and reports of committees of investigation; action taken on unfinished business.
8. Election of new members, if any.
9. New business: Motions approved as well as those lost or not approved. (State name of person proposing a motion. Name of person seconding the motion may be omitted. Motions withdrawn without a vote may be omitted).
10. Date of next meeting.
11. Adjournment: Including time.
12. Approval and signature of minutes. Signature of secretary should include given name and surname.

The following is an acceptable way of opening the minutes of a meeting.

The regular meeting of the (name of organization) was called to order by (name of presiding officer and title), at (time), on (date), at (place), (number of) members being present.





Fire



HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION MONTHLY SAFETY TOPIC

IS YOUR HOME A FIRE HAZARD?

Hundreds of home fires occur every day. Many start in faulty wiring or feed on rubbish accumulations in basements and attics.

Fire underwriters suggest that annual clean-up should mean more than just sprucing up the house and neighborhood. It should include fire hazards around the house--removing trash, making repairs and continuing regular checkups of electrical equipment and appliances.

It is not difficult. Start in the attic and work your way down to the basement.

Look at the attic. It's a rare one that doesn't have a stack of old magazines. Are they really still valuable? Those old clothes are outgrown or out of style. Why save them? The same is true of the broken chair or unused bureau you've been keeping for years "just in case."

Even bedrooms may contain potential hazards. Check the cords on bedside lamps or radios and replace them if they are worn. Be sure the cords do not run under rugs or over hooks.

Check the latch on the bedroom door. A closed door can keep out flames, smoke, heat or gases long enough to escape in case of fire in other parts of the house.

Now move to the kitchen. Make certain grease has not collected in the broiler or oven. It's also time to clean the stove if you've overlooked it in the past.

Electrical gadgets that make kitchen work easier can be false friends if the cords are frayed or if the appliances need repairs. It is a good idea to let an expert make the repairs.

Don't put all the electrical appliances on one circuit and avoid using multiple attachment plugs. If the fuse on the circuit continues to blow, don't put in a heavier fuse. Check the appliance and wire for defects.

Keep matches out of the reach of children.

The living room, too, should be inspected, again checking light cords. Place the television set so it is properly ventilated. The set can generate enough heat to cause a fire.

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Too many basements are nothing more than hatchingeries for hazards. Most homeowners paint and then save the paint they don't use, even small amounts. If you must save paint, make sure the cans are tightly covered and stored away from the heating unit. Don't save old paint rags anywhere; get rid of them.

While you're getting rid of things, throw out that stack of old newspapers. Make a note to have the furnace inspected during the summer months. At least one fire out of ten begins in a defective heating unit.

Don't overlook the laundry equipment. Motors should be kept in good condition and the vent, heating unit and lint catcher in the dryer should be cleaned. Lint accumulation in the dryer is an invitation for a fire.

Be careful of what you put in the dryer. Foam rubber in stuffed toys, pillows or junior's football pads can ignite spontaneously at the temperature generated by a dryer.

Now that you've finished the house, tackle the garage. Clean up the oil drippings on the floor and if you're storing gasoline for the power motor or outboard, use an approved safety can. If the garage is attached to the house, keep the connecting door tightly closed.

Outdoor clean-up jobs sometimes create their own fire hazards. The easiest way to get rid of leaves is to burn them but the easiest way is not necessarily the safest way. Many communities will not permit such fires without special permits.

All this might mean a hard weekend's work but it won't be as hard--or as heartbreaking--as cleaning up after a fire.

ABSTRACT FROM FATAL ACCIDENT

FATAL ROOF FALL ACCIDENT



GENERAL INFORMATION: A roof fall accident occurred in the last crosscut being developed from No. 4 to No. 5 entry of the 4 right section resulting in the death of the section foreman.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT: The 4 right off I south section crew, under the direction of their supervisor entered the mine and traveled to the active working area of the section. Upon arrival on the section, the supervisor examined the work areas, assigned duties and work location to crew members.

The production of coal began at the face of No. 3 entry. After two cuts of coal were mined, the continuous-mining-machine operator helper, observed the foreman approach the unsupported area carrying a metal roof jack on his shoulder. The foreman was placing the base of the jack on the mine floor approximately one step inby the last row of permanent roof supports when the roof collapsed entrapping him beneath the fallen roof. The continuous miner operator immediately summoned help from the other crew members, who arrived at the scene within seconds and removed the fallen material from the victim. Upon examination of the victim no signs of life could be detected.

The victim was then placed on a stretcher and transported to the surface where he was pronounced dead. Death was attributed to a crushed skull.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT: During the investigation it was revealed that the roof-control plan was not being complied with. The roof was not tested by the sound and vibration method before the victim advanced beyond supported roof, a violation of Section 75.200 of 30 CFR.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

1. The damaged roof bolt in the area of the roof fall.
2. The foreman performing work other than supervision at the time of the accident.

CONCLUSION: The fatality occurred when the victim failed to properly evaluate the roof condition before advancing inby supported roof to install a temporary roof support.



ABSTRACT FROM FATAL ACCIDENT



REPORT OF FATAL HAULAGE (DROWNING) ACCIDENT

GENERAL INFORMATION: A truck driver was fatally injured when the truck he was driving left the roadway and overturned, landing upside down in a settling pond adjacent to the roadway.

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT: The victim was assigned to drive a Euclid 48 TD end dump truck. The truck was loaded with pit run material at the stockpile area, then proceeded to the dike road where the material was dumped. A one-way, clockwise, traffic pattern was being followed. The loaded trucks traversed three sides of the impoundment, dumped on the fourth side and continued on to the stockpile to reload. Three trucks were in the cycle. There was some fog in the area on the morning of the accident. The Euclid truck involved in the accident was not equipped with windshield wipers.

Sometime later, one of the drivers noticed a caved spot on the right shoulder of the dike road. He glanced towards the pond and saw the wheels of the Euclid truck sticking up out of the water in the settling pond.

Attempts by coworkers to rescue the victim were unsuccessful.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT: The direct cause of the accident was the failure of the road shoulder under the weight of the loaded haulage truck.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Compliance with the following recommendations may prevent an accident of similar nature in the future.

56.9-1 Self-propelled equipment that is to be used during a shift shall be inspected by the equipment operator before being placed in operation. Equipment defects affecting safety shall be reported to and recorded by the mine operator. The records shall be maintained at the mine or the nearest mine office for at least six months from the date the defects are recorded. Such records shall be made available for inspection by the Secretary of Labor or his duly authorized representative.

Roadways should be wide enough to allow ample clearance on both sides for the largest equipment used. Where ample clearance is not maintained, berms shall be provided.

Management should provide adequate supervision to direct and oversee the work force in performance of their assigned duties.

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION

Safe Driving Tips

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER



Winterize your car, your driving technique and your attitude. Accept the fact that normal speeds are often too fast for winter conditions. Whenever weather is bad, slow down.

GET THE FEEL OF THE ROAD



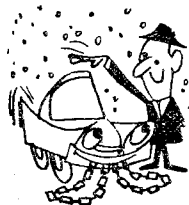
Test road conditions right away. As soon as you start out (but away from other cars or hazards) try your brakes to find out how slippery the road surface is.

MAKE SURE YOU CAN SEE



Don't drive blind. Keep windshield and windows clear. Maintain wiper blades, heater and defroster in proper operating condition. Ventilate to keep inside of windows clear.

TAKE ALONG CHAINS



Check your tires. Whether you use regular or snow tires, keep them in good condition. Use reinforced tire chains for deep or hard-packed snow, ice and in emergency situations.

-MORE-

DON'T FOLLOW TOO CLOSELY



Following too closely, always a hazard, is especially dangerous in winter. Keep well back of the vehicle ahead to give yourself plenty of room for an emergency stop.

PUMP YOUR BRAKES ON ICE



To stop quickly, pump your brakes in a series of fast applications. Jamming on the brakes will lock the brakes and throw the car into an uncontrollable skid. Keep your head.

* * * * *

The Golden Age

The month of January was named for the mythical Roman god, Janus, who reigned over the early inhabitants of Italy during a long extended period of their history in which there were no wars - only peace. This era later became known as the Golden Age. Janus was a god of beginnings, of doors and perhaps, originally of light. He was represented with two faces looking in opposite directions.

The ability to look behind us, study the causes and see the number and the severity of some of the mine accidents that occurred in the past should only intensify our resolutions to take a more active part in their elimination. Much of this can be accomplished through the Holmes Safety Association. Have we done enough? The record implies that we haven't.

We can improve by increasing our membership and by increasing the active participation of those who attend. Everyone connected with the mining industry has "something" to contribute toward mine safety, whether they represent management, labor, inspection services, or other allied interests.

We now have a new beginnings, with the new year of 1985. Like Janus, we are in a favorable position to succeed. We can look behind for knowledge, then look ahead and apply it in our concerted efforts to eliminate mine injuries. We could be on the brink of a new Golden Age of safety for the mining industry -- It depends on YOU and ME.



H.S.A. SAFETY TOPIC

INJURIES TO FEMALE MINERS IN SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND COAL OPERATIONS 1978-1982

Information contained in these reports along with information obtained from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has been utilized in the preparation of this report. The principal concern of this publication is to determine if female coal miners experience more or more severe injuries than the coal mining industry as a whole.

According to the data available for the years 1978 through 1982, there were 102,711 injury/accidents in the coal mining industry (excluding office workers): 100,337 (97.7 percent) male coal miners and 2,374 (2.3 percent) female coal miners.

This study presents the results of an investigation of those injuries involving female coal miners at underground and surface coal operations. During this five-year period, there were three fatalities, 2,096 nonfatal-days-lost injuries,¹ and 275 no-days-lost² injury accidents reported to HSAC involving female coal miners.

Female coal miners comprised an average of 2.4 percent of the total workforce in the coal mining industry from 1978 through 1982 (1978, 1.7 percent; 1979, 2.4 percent; 1980, 2.5 percent; 1981, 2.6 percent; 1982, 2.8 percent).

This growing percentage indicates that an increasing number of inexperienced female workers are being introduced into the mine environment and into traditionally male job categories. At most mining operations, inexperienced women and men are hired as general laborers or trainees.

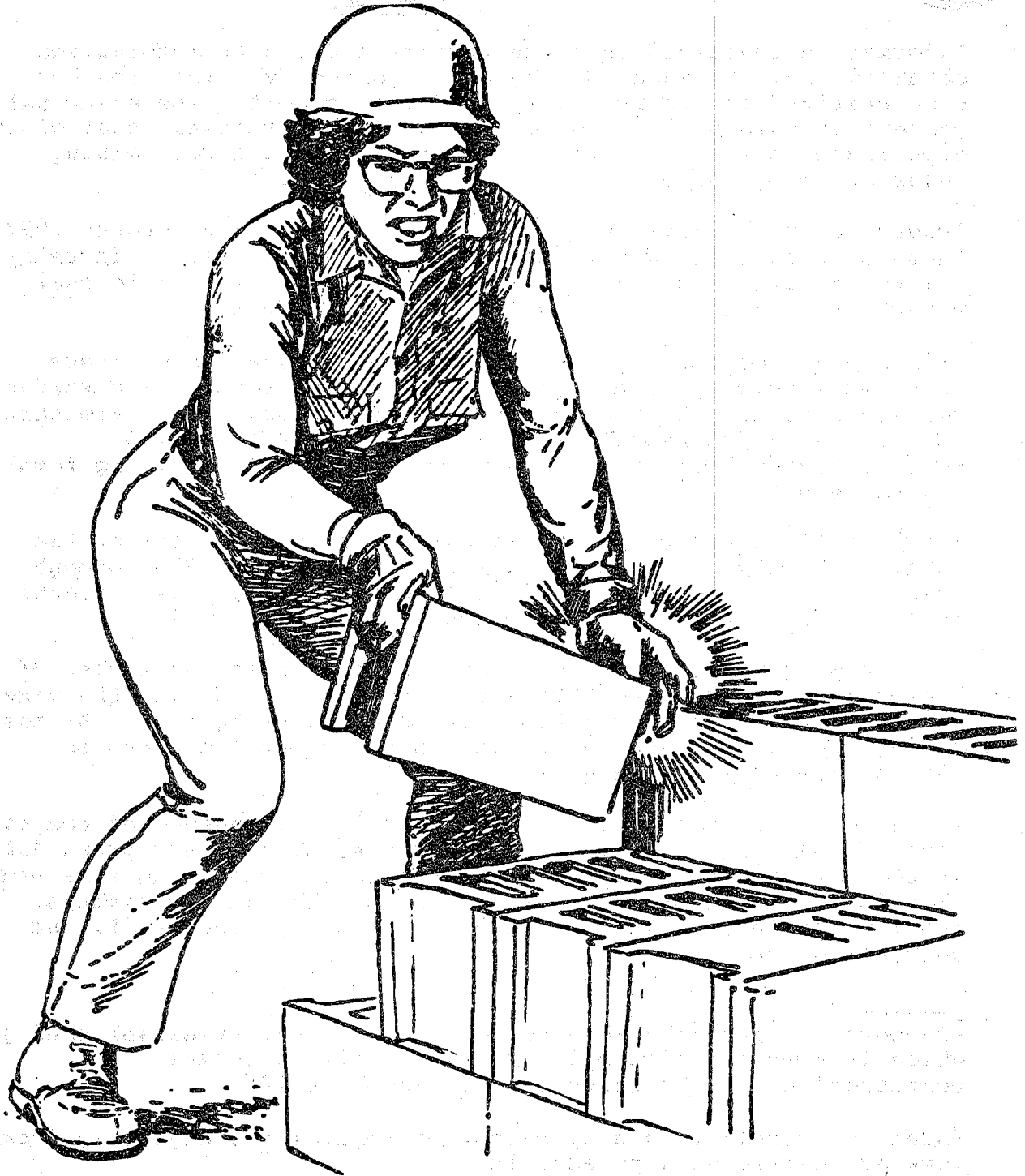
These jobs are some of the most physically demanding and comprise some of the toughest, heaviest, dirtiest, most injury-prone jobs in the mine environment, such as bratticing; shoveling ribs and cleaning spillage at conveyors, carrying and lifting timbers, trailing cables, rock dust bags, cement bags, steel rail, and concrete blocks.

¹Renders the person unable to perform a regularly established job which is open and available during the time interval corresponding to the hours of the regular shift.

²Does not result in death, permanent impairment, days away from work or restricted work activity.

-MORE-

Injuries to Female Miners
in
Surface and Underground Coal Operations
1978 - 1982



- MORE -

The injured female coal miner had little seniority at the mine, 37 percent had less than one year of experience and less than 5 percent had 5 years or more of experience.

The injured female coal miner was generally unseasoned in total mining experience, 30 percent had less than one year of experience and only 6 percent had 5 years or more of experience.

Information is not available to determine age distribution of the total female coal miner population.

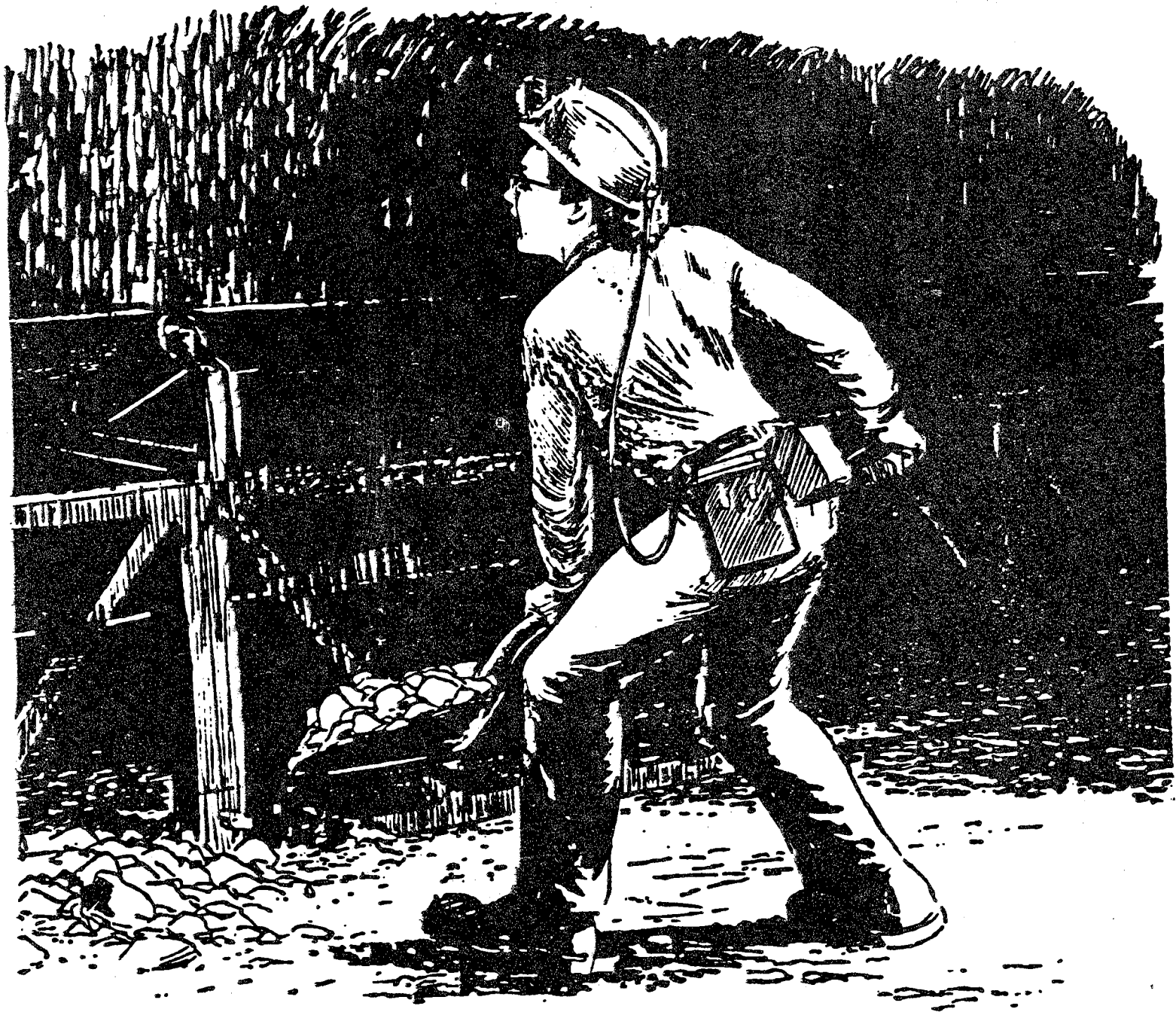
Of the injuries to female coal miners, 57.2 percent are to the joints and bones of the limbs, 28.5 percent to the legs and hips and 28.7 percent to the arms and shoulders. The majority of the remaining injuries -- 29.3 percent -- are to the back and neck area.

The principal sources of injury are materials handling and slips and falls. These are the major sources of injury to the entire coal workforce.

Training programs should include proper use and care of personal protective equipment, instruction in lifting techniques, and the essentials of maintaining personal good health.

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H.S.A. SAFETY TOPIC



ARE YOU TAKING YOUR EMPLOYEES FOR GRANTED?

People leave their jobs for any number of reasons. Often it's for a better opportunity elsewhere or a larger paycheck. But even with the lure of more money, people who are reasonably content with their work and their bosses seldom go looking for other jobs.

Some bosses have a higher turnover among their subordinates than others, sometimes embarrassingly so. And often it's the better people who leave. This can be a costly and frustrating problem.

Sometimes, obviously, people have been offered opportunities or salaries which are so extraordinary that you couldn't possibly have matched them. All you could have done in any case is let them go and wish them good luck. But don't be too sure. Before you let yourself off the hook, ask yourself a few questions, and answer them as honestly as you can.

1. Did I let these people know how important they were to me and to the company? Or did I take them for granted?
2. Did I give them a chance to be proud of themselves?
3. Did I delegate authority as well as I could? Or did I keep my employees tied to my apron strings?
4. Did I give these people-and get for them-the credit and recognition they deserved from me and from others in the company?
5. Were their jobs a real challenge? Did I do my best to make them so?
6. Did I make their work as varied and interesting as possible? Did I show them the possibilities of a promising future? Or did I simply leave them in a rut and exploit their abilities to my own advantage?

Don't be too quick to absolve yourself from all blame. If you were responsible, in any respect, it's smarter to realize it than to hide your head in the sand. Unless you change your attitude and actions, you may lose more than just good people. You may be on the verge of destroying your own company or career as well.

-MORE-

The best time to think of these things, of course, is before you lose good people rather than after.

Where does this all fit into the accident prevention picture? Our problems aren't the physical hazards of our plants. Our main problems are people. Turnover causes accidents; it adds to training and adds to the need of increased supervision.

We can have new facilities and new equipment yet cannot produce any product without people. People are our most important asset!

* * * * *

Stress

"Stress" is a word we hear a lot, but what actually is stress and what does it do?

Stress can be defined in physiological terms by a number of predictable body responses: increased heart rate, soaring blood pressure, rapid breathing, increased muscle tension, headaches and upset stomach. But what about claims that stress can lead to cancer, heart attacks, ulcers, colitis, high blood pressure and other diseases?

Evidence indicates that stress can be a contributing factor in some diseases and in the impact any disease has on a patient's life, but it is difficult to establish a cause-and-effect connection between stress and disease.

One thing is clear: stress makes day-to-day living a lot less pleasant. Remember these tips to help deal with stress:

-A busy life is not necessarily more stressful than a limited life. It all depends on individual needs and the gratification you get from your activities.

-Exercise provides emotional as well as physical benefits and reduces stress.

-Reevaluate your priorities from time to time. A more satisfying life-style will cause less stress than one that is frustrating.



H.S.A. SAFETY TOPIC

Orientation

Starting new employees off with a sound orientation program pays dividends for the duration of their employment. Because of the potential for serious accidents in coal mining, safety is a primary consideration in everything we do. From the employee's first day, safety is a very important part of the training program. It must be made clear to new employees that they are expected to learn the safe way to do the job and to work as safely as they know how.

Job training must be done for each new task a person is assigned until they have been trained in the entire content of their job description. A good tool to use is "Job-Safety Analysis." It lists the basic steps of the job to be performed, the hazards to which the worker is exposed during each step and tells the right way to perform each step to avoid injury. In this phase of training, the supervisor may be able to use an experienced coworker to demonstrate the job steps and to explain the hazards. It is useful to relate histories of injuries which have occurred on that job. It is sometimes worthwhile to use as an instructor someone who has had an injury on the particular job.

Special instruction is usually necessary when assigning personnel to new, hazardous, or infrequently performed operations. Special caution must be urged for those operations that are nonroutine or unusually hazardous. If the supervisor only talks production, without repeated mention of safety considerations, employees will conclude that management does not care about their safety. As the supervisor relates to the workers throughout each day, the conversations should include safety talk. Injuries and near-misses that have occurred can be discussed. Job-safety analyses should be reviewed. An unsafe act should always be corrected.

Lack of knowledge or skill is the primary cause of accidents. Perhaps the injured person was not taught the right way to do this job at the onset, or perhaps bad habits or shortcuts were learned along the way. Occasionally a worker commits an unsafe act because of unusual conditions. Giving orders and posting rules do not keep people from doing things wrong. People must understand reasons for standard procedures if we expect them to cooperate. It is important that the supervisor start with basics in safety training and not assume new workers know more than they do. Simple jobs cause most accidents.

Instruction is the supervisor's first job. The supervisor is a teacher. Safety is a way of life. The supervisor is teaching employees not only how to make a living, but also how to live. Safety indoctrination is a continuing process. It never ends.

January 1985



H.S.A. SAFETY TOPIC

A Clean Sweep



If you're planning some cozy evenings in front of the hearth this winter, there are some precautions you should take.

Check your fireplace and equipment carefully before you light the first log. Is all of your masonry sound? Broken fire bricks and crumbling mortar often lead to fires where you don't want them. Does the damper open and close easily? Is the flue drawing properly?

Make repairs if you have wobbly andirons or a faulty screen. Shifting logs often produce flying fragments and sparks. An effective screen will keep burning embers in and keep children and pets out!

When was your chimney last inspected or cleaned? If you use your fireplace regularly, you should have the chimney swept often. The kind of materials burned as well as the amount of use affect the cleanliness of the chimney. Artificial logs and unseasoned wood hasten the buildup of hazardous creosote on the interior. It would be a wise move to call in your local chimney sweep for an examination and cleaning recommendations.

Build a safe fire. Use as little paper as possible and don't overstuff with wood or kindling if you want to avoid too hot a fire. Overheating can cause structural damage and possibly start a fire in adjacent wood framing. Never use a lighter fluid or any flammable liquid to light up - even the fumes can set off an unexpected fire or explosion. Don't go to bed or leave the house unless you're sure the fire is completely out. As a safety measure, leave the damper open awhile after the fire seems dead, to be sure that all deadly carbon monoxide fumes can escape.

Slogan Of The Month

The Best Fire Escape

Is Fire Prevention

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION

C O L D W E A T H E R S T A R T S

Jumping car batteries is a common practice that is usually done under rushed conditions and in extreme cold. Few people realize how dangerous this is and that there is a method which lessens the chance of a battery exploding.

Hydrogen gas buildup inside the battery sets the stage for an explosion. This is especially prevalent if the battery water is low, which allows space for the hydrogen gas to be trapped. Whenever a battery is being charged, hydrogen is being generated. Any spark in or near the outside of the battery will explode the gas.

ONE--Make certain the two cars are not touching. If the two vehicles are in contact, you might create an unwanted electrical circuit which could cause dangerous sparks when the booster cables are attached.

TWO--Turn off all battery-operated accessories, such as your headlights, radio and heater to eliminate power drains and the possibility of short-circuiting your electrical system. Then set your parking brake and shift your transmission into the "Park" position. ("A manual transmission should be placed in neutral".)

THREE--Take off the vent caps from the two batteries and cover the vent holes with a cloth. If the caps aren't removed, there's danger of an explosion. The cloth will keep you from being sprayed with battery acid.

FOUR--With the engine turned off, connect one end of either of the two booster cables to the positive terminal of the booster battery. Then attach the other end of the same cable to the positive terminal post of the weak battery. The positive terminal on most batteries is identified with a plus (+) sign, the negative post with a minus (-).

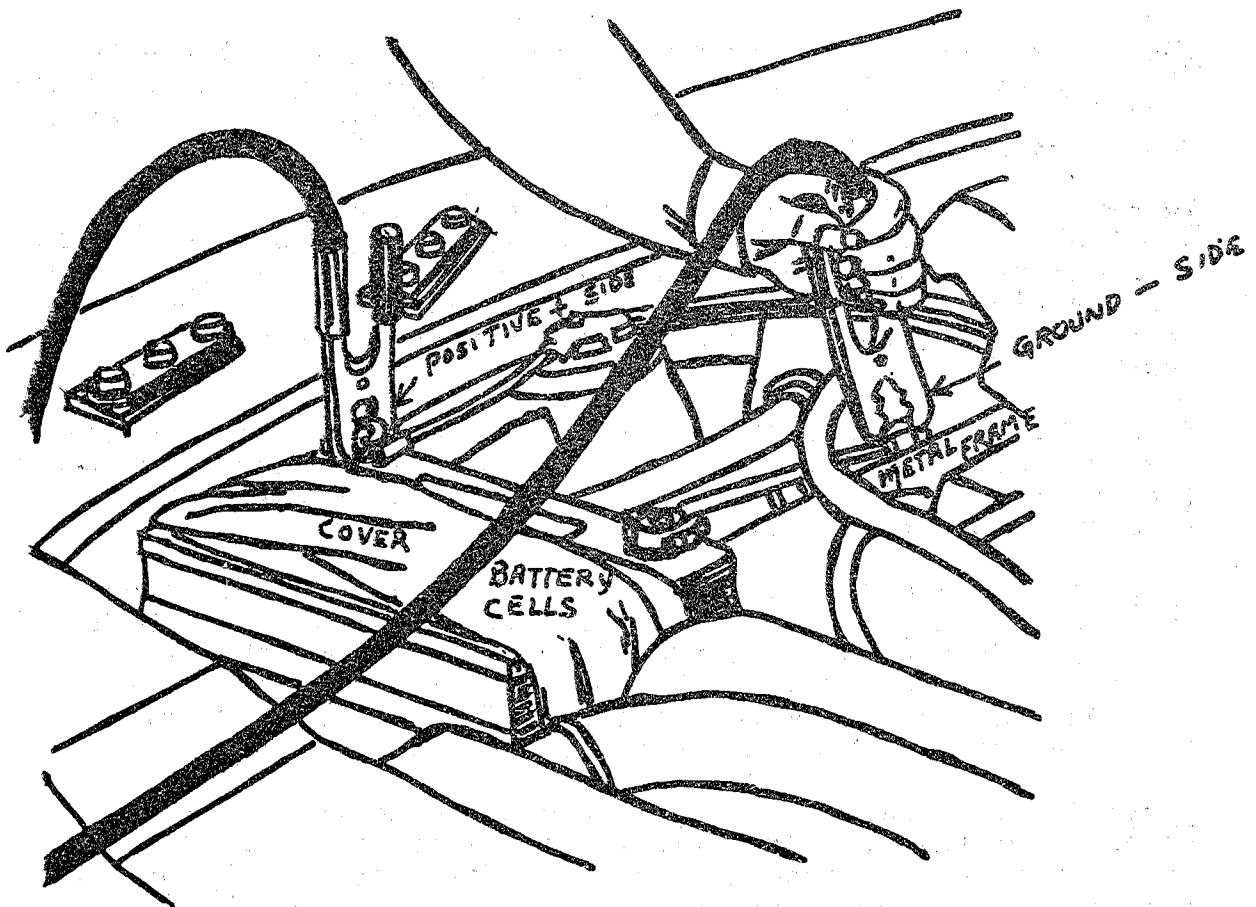
FIVE--Connect one end of the second cable to the negative terminal of the booster battery and the other end of the same cable to a ground connection on your disabled vehicle such as the engine block. The ground connection is a safeguard against damage to your car's electrical system.

Start the engine of the car with the booster battery and turn on your own car's ignition. Once your engine is running, simply reverse the five-step procedure to remove the cables. Begin with step five, removing the ground connection and moving backwards through step three.

-MORE-

Boosting a weak or dead battery may seem easy enough. However, service experts warn that because air conditioning and other power accessories demand higher capacity batteries on newer model cars, there's good reason to use caution.

Of course, the best advice is to have your battery cleaned and checked by a qualified service mechanic before winter arrives. Other worthwhile pre-winter checks include heater and radiator hoses, fan belts, motor oil and engine timing, windshield wiper blades and tire treads and pressure.



January 1985

HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL NEWS

TO ALL COUNCIL PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES:

The Holmes Safety Association will publish all important news releases and notices of district council banquets and meetings in the Bulletin.

Please forward to Linda Lofstead, HSA, 4800 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Notices of meetings should be sent six weeks in advance of meeting.

* * * * *

The word is out that Linda Byers does an excellent job as Secretary of the North Central District Council. Thanks Linda!

COMMENTS

The annual meeting of the National Council of the Holmes Safety Association and the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association will be held at the Best Western Falls Church Inn on May 22, 1985, with the safety awards banquet following at 7 p.m.

Further details will be published in the Bulletin.

Get your reservations in early.

* * * * *

YOUR COUNCIL CAN BE A WINNER

The National Safety Awards program is now in full swing. All councils wanting to participate for the 1984 Safety Awards in coal/metal/nonmetal surface and underground mines should fill out the form that was attached to the rules and criteria forwarded to the council presidents and secretaries in November 1984. The deadline in applying for 1984 awards is February 15, 1985. LET'S GO. We will be happy to see you in behalf of your district councils at the forthcoming Safety Awards Banquet to be held this spring in Arlington, Virginia. The winners will be notified in advance.

The Last Word

January 1985

If you're going around in circles, maybe you're cutting too many corners.

Times haven't changed much. It took Noah 40 days to find a parking place.

You may not be what you think you are. But what you think, you are.

When you get a chance to buy things for a song it's a good idea to check the accompaniment.

Egotism is that art of seeing qualities in yourself which others can't.

The amount of sleep required by the average person is five minutes more.

If you can't get away for a vacation this year, you can attain the same feeling by staying home and tipping every third person you meet.

The following poem was submitted by :

Clint G. Fabry
Sec., Eastern Buckeye Council
MSHA, Holmes Safety Asso.
St. Clairsville, OH

"I'LL BE WAITING"

I'll be waiting for you
To make that last big mistake;

Just walk underneath me
Is all it will take;

I'm fair to all and exclude
no one
Sister, brother, father, or
son;

So get careless and foolish
And come make my day;

And with your blood and tears
I'll make you pay;

So come out and see me
If you need proof;

And I'll sign your
gravestone,
"Unsupported Roof"

People do not stumble over
mountains, but over molehills.

RESOLUTIONS ... AGAIN!!!!

Resolved: Not to kill or injure yourself or anyone by unsafe practices or by overlooking unsafe conditions!

This year, instead of making a list of New Year's Resolutions, why not make just one ... to never commit one unsafe act which could injure yourself or others.

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U.S. Department of Labor
LAB 441

MSHA, Office of Holmes
Safety Association
Educational Policy & Development
P.O. Box 25367
Denver, Colorado 80225

5000-22
(Rev. 12-78)



HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION
MEETING REPORT FORM

For the month of _____

TOTAL meetings held this month _____

TOTAL attendance this month _____

Chapter Number _____ (See address label, if incorrect, please indicate change.)

(Signature)

(Telephone No.)

(Title)

FILL OUT - FOLD AND STAPLE - FREE MAIL-IN

NOTE: BE SURE OUR ADDRESS SHOWS

For uninterrupted delivery, please include any change of address below:

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association was founded in 1916 by 24 leading National organizations of the mining industries.

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association is named to commemorate the first director of the Bureau of Mines for his efforts in reducing accidents and illness throughout the mineral industries.

The following is the different award criteria:

Type "A" Awards - For Acts of Heroism

The awards are medals with Medal of Honor Certificate.

Type "A" - For Acts of Heroic Assistance

The awards are Certificates of Honor.

Type B-1 Awards - For Individual Workers

(40 years continuous work experience without injury that resulted in lost workdays)

The awards are Certificate of Honor, Gold Pins and Gold Decal.

Type B-2 Awards - For Individual Officials

(For record of group working under their supervision)

The awards are Certificate of Honor.

Type C Awards - For Safety Records

(For all segments of the mineral extractive industries, meeting adopted criteria)

The awards are Certificate of Honor.

Other Awards - For Individual Workers

(For 10, 20, or 30 years without injury resulting in lost workdays)

The awards are 30 years-Silver Pin and Decal, 20 years-Bronze Pin and Decal, 10 years-Decal bearing insignia.

Special Awards - For Small Operators

(Mine operators with 25 employees or less with outstanding safety records)

The awards are Certificate of Honor.

Contact: HSA Office

Department of Labor
MSHA, Holmes Safety Association
4800 Forbes Avenue, Room A268
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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