

33rd Annual Kentucky Professional Engineers in Mining Seminar
September 11, 2020



MSHA: General Update

Timothy R. Watkins
Administrator for Mine Safety and
Health Enforcement



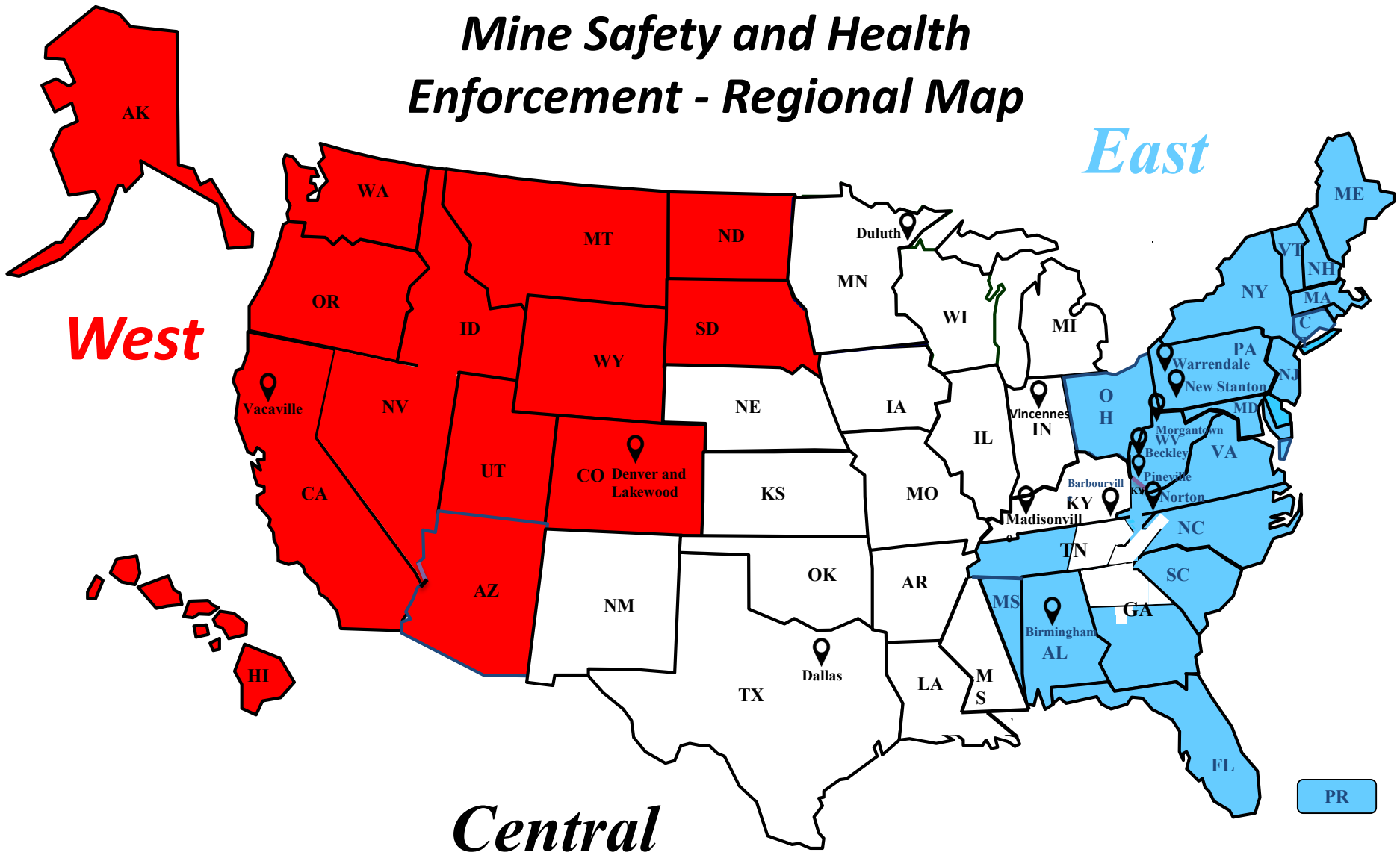
MSHA.GOV
@USDOL
#MSHA

One MSHA Initiative

- Blurring the distinction between Coal and MNM enforcement for more efficient use of resources
- Cross-training inspectors and updating systems to accommodate change where it makes sense
- Specialized inspector expertise still required for certain mines
- 213 mines “blurred”
- Phasing in 3 Regions and corresponding Regional Administrators



Mine Safety and Health Enforcement - Regional Map



 Denotes District Offices



MSHA.GOV
@USDOL
#MSHA

The MSHA Mission

“to prevent death, illness, and injury from mining and promote safe and healthful workplaces for U.S. miners”





MSHA.GOV
@USDOL
#MSHA

Powered Haulage Safety Initiative

Powered Haulage accidents were responsible for 50% of fatalities in recent years; 7 of 27 (26%) in 2019 and in 2020, 2 of 13 (15%) which continues the trend of improvement

Preventing these accidents is a priority for MSHA, with a focus on:

- Mobile Equipment
- Belt Conveyors
- Seat Belt Safety

Belt Conveyors

- Eight miners killed working around belt conveyors since January 2017;
- Since 2008, 20 fatalities and more than 40 permanent injuries
- Guarding, lock-out tag-out, properly using crossovers - all essential for safety



Seat Belt Safety

- Three fatalities in 2017 and 2018, 3 more in 2019, no incidents in 2020 and 41 fatalities since 2007, involved miners not wearing seat belts
- 6000+ MSHA citations issued for failure to wear seatbelts since 2007 (most in MNM mines)





ELECTROCUTIONS of 2020

- Three **FATAL** ELECTROCUTIONS In Over **SIX** WEEKS in 2019:
- Two in West Virginia (Coal – District 04)
- One in Louisiana (M/NM – South Central)
- Near miss situations such as “victim in Florida contacted high voltage by placing head in electrical box”
- Most recent in 2020, One in Georgia (SE)

All have somethings in common:

1. No Lock Out/Tag Out
2. Not protected with appropriate PPE
3. Working on electrical equipment without Certified or Qualified persons present
4. Working – Not Troubleshooting



Contractors

- 15 of 37 (41%) Fatalities in 2019 & 2020 combined were contractors
- Contractors represent approx. 25% of workforce
- Mine Act defines “operator” to include both owner /production operators and independent contractors
- Operator & Contractor have equal responsibility for compliance with laws, standards & regulations
- Most (if not all) contractor fatalities correlate with training deficiencies





Safety Alert



Fatalities involving Miners falling off Equipment!

7 miners have died after falling from equipment since 2015.

Three fatalities occurred when miners attempted to mount or dismount equipment. One fatality occurred when a miner did not tie off in an aerial lift while conducting maintenance. Three fatalities have occurred in 2020 involving miners falling from trucks.

- Two of these involved closing the hatch of a bulk tanker truck.
- One involved falling from the top of a trailer while adjusting a tarp.

Between January 2019 and August 2020, MSHA issued 72 imminent danger orders for people working atop trucks, front end loaders, aerial lifts, bulldozers and railcars. The most common violations were equipment operators climbing atop their vehicles.



A truck driver fell 9 ½ feet while adjusting the tarp. He had climbed up the side of the truck into the bed and fell while walking on loose sand.



A miner fell approximately 12 feet from the top of the bulk trailer through a gap caused by misalignment of the tractor-trailer with the truck rack cage.



MSHA.GOV
@USDOL
#MSHA

Regulations and Guidance

1. **Powered Haulage** – proposal projected in 2020.
2. **Respirable Quartz** – had public session w/ NIOSH. Spring regulatory agenda will detail next action. Workshop to be held October 22, 2020.
3. **Permissible Survey Eq** – working on proposed rule-estimated for 2020.
4. **Part 18 Approvals** - Streamlining for Electronic product approvals proposed rule in 2020.
5. **Guidance** – updating and streamlining MSHA program handbooks is underway to comply with Executive Order and best practices.





MSHA.GOV
@USDOL
#MSHA

Questions?