


Following Proper Procedures



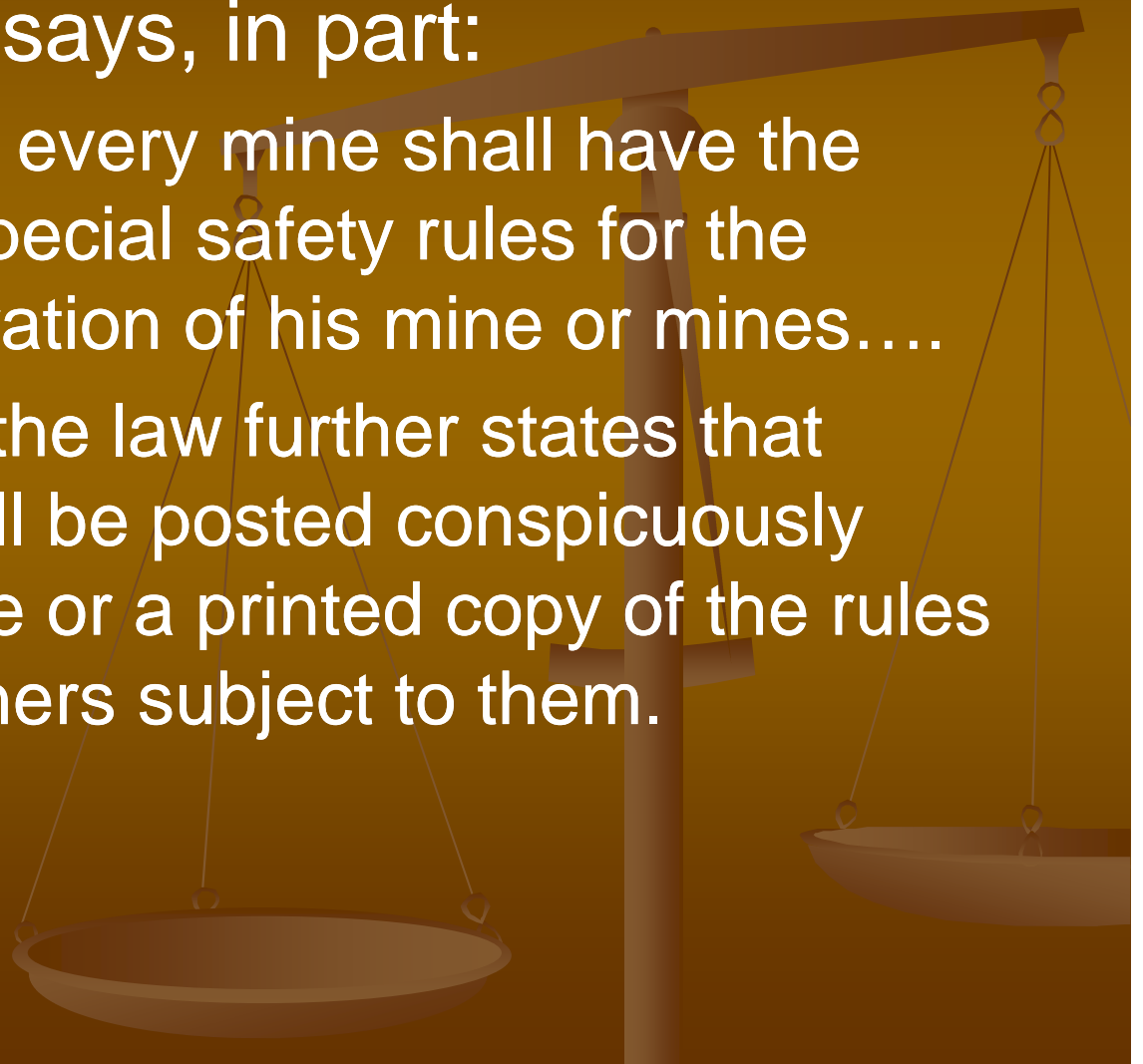
DMME

Division of Mineral Mining

2012

Mine Operator's Right Under Law

- **45.1-161.292:4** says, in part:
 - The operator of every mine shall have the right to adopt special safety rules for the safety and operation of his mine or mines....
 - This section of the law further states that these rules shall be posted conspicuously around the mine or a printed copy of the rules given to the miners subject to them.

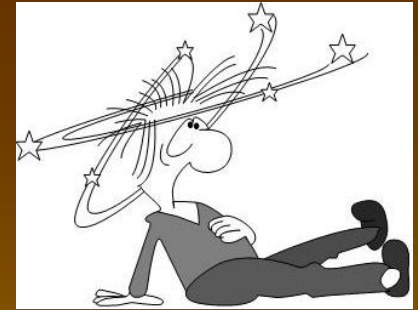


Establishing Procedures

- The mine operator's responsibility:
 - Evaluate all tasks on the mine site and identify specific hazards.
 - Establish written procedures addressing those hazards. Post the procedures where practical.
 - Train all employees to recognize hazards and to know the correct procedures. This is a key element in task training.



The Miner's Responsibility



- The mine operator can only do so much. After a point, the miners must assume responsibility for their safety. **4VAC25-40-190** requires miners to comply with all state safety and health regulations that apply to their task or duty. Key actions include:
 - Proper inspection of equipment and work areas prior to start of work and frequently during the shift. Report Hazards!
 - Do not perform a task unless you have been properly trained and are aware of company and state safety rules that apply.
 - Always follow proper procedures and use the safety equipment needed for the task.
 - Consult the owner's/operator's manual for the equipment manufacturer's recommendations that may apply to service and maintenance activities.

Ensure Compliance

- Work activities must be observed to be certain policies and procedures are followed.
- A primary duty of the BMME certified foreman is to ensure that all activities under their supervision are conducted in a safe manner and in compliance with applicable state laws and regulations (4VAC25-40-120).



Lock-out/Tag-out

- One of the most important procedures.
 - What do regulations require?
 - What are your companies requirements?
- Do you always test to see if all energy is released?
- Is everything blocked against hazardous motion?



Manufacturer's Recommendations/Specifications

- When in doubt....
 - Go by the book.
 - If you can't find the book, or the information you need in the book, pick up the phone.
 - Don't guess and hope for the best.
- The regulations require it!!



Intended Use

- Use tools and equipment only as intended by the manufacturer. Beware of field modifications or “homemade and handy”.
- Once modified, you don’t know what the capability or capacity is.
- Always ask yourself, “Was this thing meant to be used this way?”



Wire rope clamp/puller modified to pull conveyor belting involved in a “near miss” incident.

Capacities



- A number of fatalities in recent years have been due to lifting loads that were beyond the capacity of the equipment used.

- Know the capacities of the equipment you are using and the weight of the load you need to move, lift, etc.

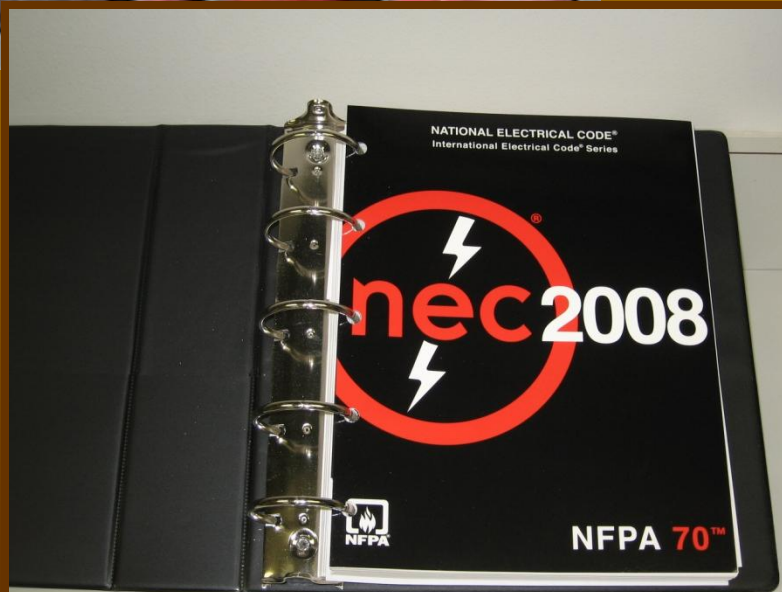
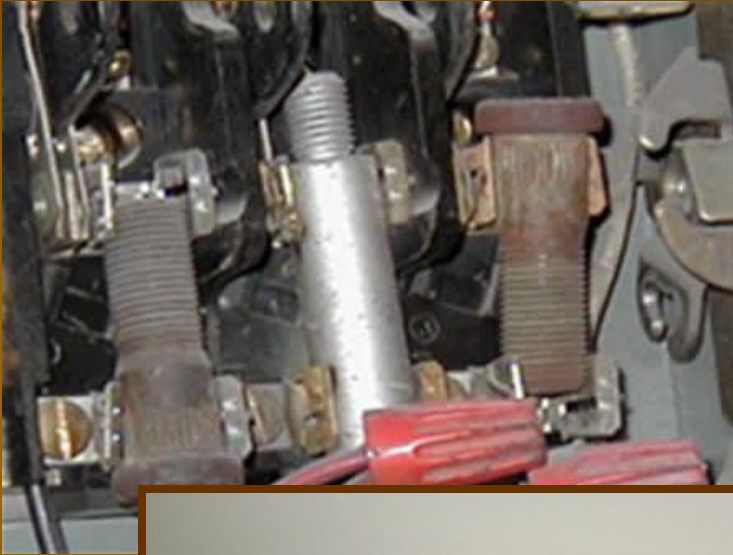


Posting Hazards



- It is a shared responsibility to see that hazards are properly posted for the benefit of miners and visitors.
- Miners must report unsafe conditions to the certified foreman.
- If an unsafe condition found by, or reported to, the certified foreman cannot be corrected immediately, the affected area must be posted and barricaded to prevent access.

Electrical Maintenance and Repair



- Installation and repair to be done in accordance with the National Electrical Code and **Part XII** of the regulations.
- All work to be done by, or under the supervision of, a certified or licensed electrical repairman.
- Inspections may be done by a competent person.

Safety Materials and Supplies

- **45.1-161.292:7** of the law requires mine operators to have on hand an adequate supply of those items needed to ensure the safety of the miners working on their sites.
- **Part X** of the regulations details the personal protective equipment and other materials to be used and available at the mine. **Parts V, XII, XIII** also specify materials to be available.



Ensuring Materials Are Used

- It does no good to have the required materials on hand if no one uses them.
- Through training and observation, the mine operator must ensure proper use. Miners must follow training/direction.
- Proper inspection and maintenance must be part of the training. Damaged PPE must not be used.



A Major Cause of Accidents

- A review and analysis of accidents plainly shows a majority are due to improper procedures and/or improper use of tools and equipment.
- The mine operator and the miners share the responsibility to ensure that proper procedures and equipment are in place and utilized.



END

