



TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR RIDE



In the past six and a half years, 51 coal miners have been fatally injured in accidents involving **Machinery and Powered Haulage** accidents. Machinery accidents have been the leading cause of miner deaths at 27, with Powered Haulage accidents running a close second at 24 fatalities. The root causes of the Machinery and Powered Haulage accidents indicate that most of these fatalities could have been prevented if a few simple rules were followed.

1. **Examinations** are a vital step in the safe operation of mobile equipment, whether it is a shuttle car, hauler, loader, scoop, drill, roof bolter, dozer, continuous mining machine, mantrip or other related equipment. Maintaining your equipment in safe operating condition ensures you have adequate brakes, steering components, lighting, sounding devices such as bells and horns, **unobstructed view** of direction of travel, and **seat belts**.
2. **Give your equipment your undivided attention. Maintaining full control** of the mobile equipment you're operating is not only needed to safely perform your duties, but it's also the law. Know the grades you're operating on, the Mine's Safety Program, equipment limitations, traffic patterns and routes, and haul road conditions.
3. **Effective communication** plays a key role in preventing accidents and can often be the difference between life and death in a mine environment. Miners use cap lamps, horns, bells, their voices, and two way radios to communicate their intentions and to acknowledge messages received from others. Failure to communicate your movements to others could lead to an accident.
4. **Thinking of others.** Is my visibility obstructed? Where did they go? What are they doing? Do they know what I plan on doing? Can they see me? All important and valid questions that come to mind when operating equipment or being in close proximity to equipment being operated.
5. **Blocked or chocked.** Blocking against motion, whether it's a continuous mining machine cutter head, belt conveyor or a 10,000 lb. hauler bed, must be done using substantial blocking according to manufacturer's recommendations and specifications.
6. **Stay out** of the turning radius of a machine and limit your exposure to the equipment's pathway.
7. **Training Required.** Essential information and knowledge concerning the safe operation of equipment is vital to your safety, and the safety of those around you.