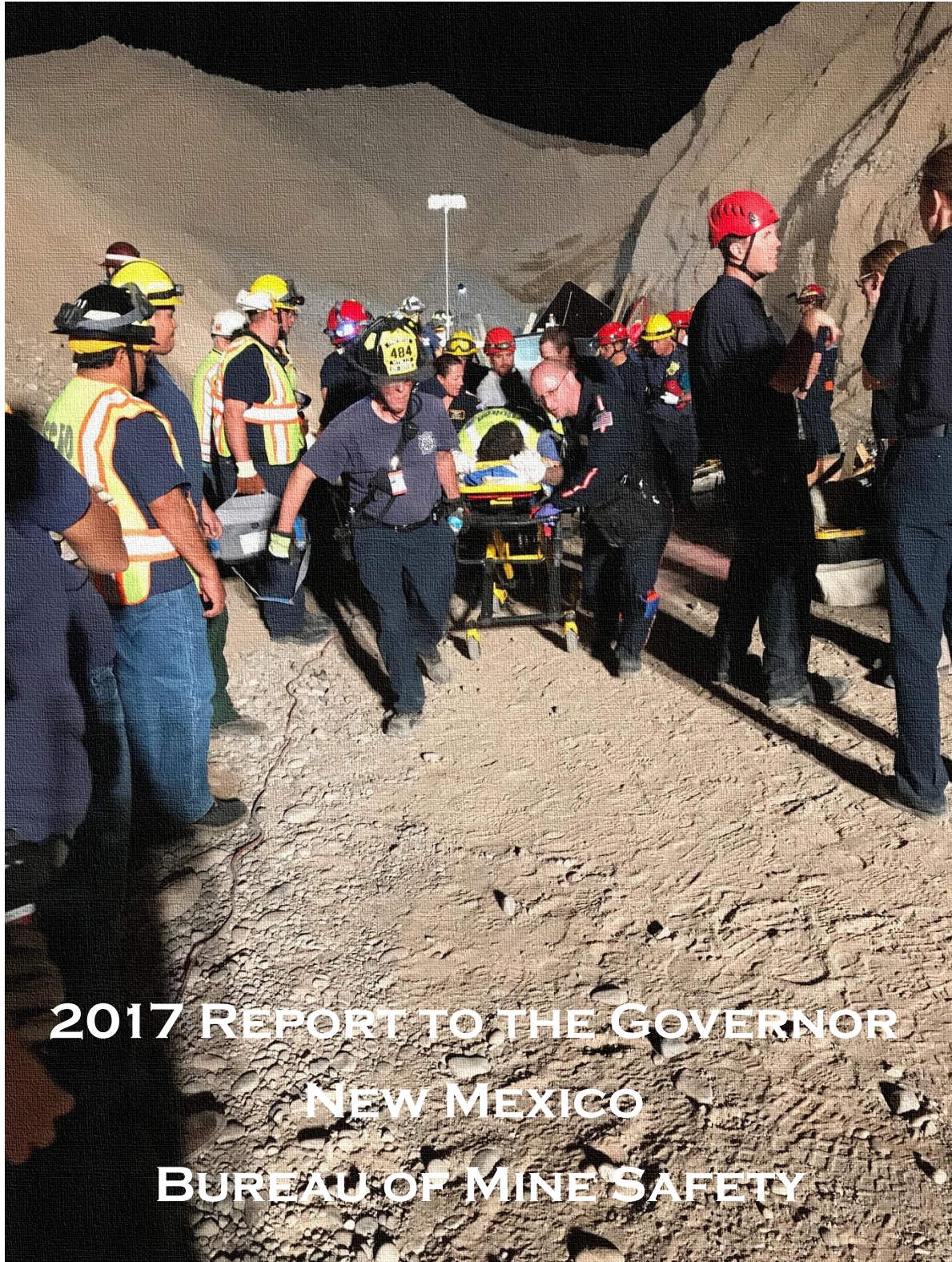




NEW MEXICO TECH

Bureau of Mine Safety



2017 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR
NEW MEXICO
BUREAU OF MINE SAFETY

The State Mine Inspector's 2017 Report to the Governor

**Cover Photo by Randy Logsdon
State Mine Inspector:**

**One of four victims rescued from
entrapment by unconsolidated material in
a surge pile at Vulcan Materials
Company's Placitas Pit in Bernalillo
County on June 29, 2017. In an heroic
team effort by multiple agencies, all four
victims were rescued.**

Bureau of Mine Safety Staff

State Mine Inspector

Randy Logsdon

Associate State Mine Inspector

Terry Walker

Safety Trainer – Mine Safety Specialist

Larry Sanchez

Administrative Specialist

Debora McVey



NEW MEXICO BUREAU OF MINE SAFETY

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Overview

Introduction

The New Mexico Bureau of Mine Safety (BMS) is a department of the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology (NMT).

Directed by the State Mine Inspector, the department is a state and federal-funded organization providing services to New Mexico and its miners in numerous areas that include:

Mine Rescue and Emergency Response - Coordination of incident response, equipment and human resources.

Legislative Issues Relative to Miner Safety- Includes being the point of contact for the Governor's office on mine safety related issues and legislation.

Safety and Health Training - Providing safety and health training to mine workers, contractors, as well as federal and state organizations involved in mine-related activities.

The Bureau of Mine Safety and the State Mine Inspector are the representatives of New Mexico responsible for the safety of the State's miners, and accountable at state and federal levels including:

- The Mine Safety and Health Training Program and Coal Mine Official's Certification Program are mandated, certified and audited by the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety & Health Administration.
- Activities including emergency response coordination and compliance with state mining law are State of New Mexico statutory duties of the State Mine Inspector.

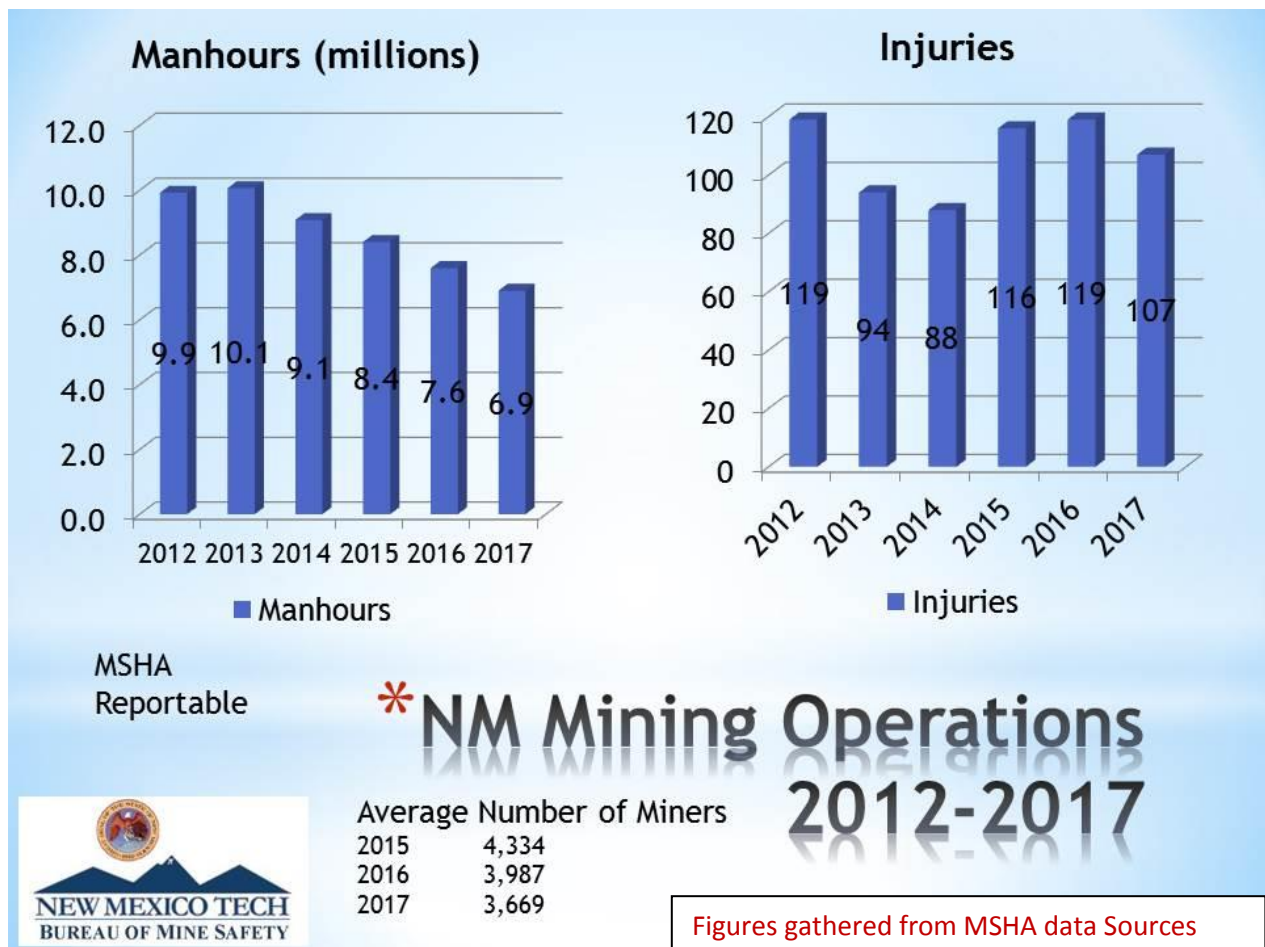
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Miner Safety in New Mexico

Due to the concerted leadership of the governor, legislators, the mining industry, and state and federal officials at many levels, New Mexico has not only demonstrated a commitment to miner safety, but also fostered the necessary environment that upholds excellent mine safety standards.

In 2017 the U.S. mining industry recorded the second lowest number of fatalities on record (28). Regretfully, New Mexico cannot be counted with the states that recorded zero fatalities. The New Mexico mining industry experienced a fatal incident that occurred on March 24, 2017 at Black Rock Services Bonito Pit, East of Los Lunas. An unsecured service truck rolled, unattended, pinning the victim against a generator trailer. This was the first New Mexico mine fatality since May of 2013.



In the last year significant accomplishments have contributed to miner safety in New Mexico:

Emergency Preparedness

The New Mexico State Mine Inspector (SMI), in conjunction with the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) continues to focus attention and resources into

developing and maintaining emergency readiness, including the implementation of Emergency Notification Plans (ENP's) for individual mine sites and participation in training, contests, and drills designed to hone skills and knowledge required for successful emergency operations. Operators are encouraged to develop emergency response teams following FEMA guidelines for incident command systems. This process helps to ensure that on-site emergency teams will operate in a seamless fashion with federal, state, and local response personnel if there is an emergency.

Immediate Application of New Information Mining safety is an ever-evolving science. Regulatory and technological changes are tracked by the BMS in order to educate the NM mining industry. Educational methods include classroom instruction, newsletters, special bulletins, and conferences with BMS participation.

Training is the Keystone of Safety



State-of-the-art simulated firefighting applied to BMS safety training classes offers a real-life look and feel to firefighting.

The Bureau of Mine Safety exists to actively promote the safety of the miners of New Mexico. BMS trained 2,384 miners during CY 2017. This includes over 180 miners trained in Spanish language classes. These figures represent a 27% and 26% increase respectively over 2016. BMS training and initiatives have contributed to a substantial decrease in the number of reportable injuries and

illnesses in New Mexico. Mean scores on student evaluation of our instructors range from 3.63 to 4.0 on a 4-point scale. On the question of whether the training provided would improve hazard recognition and control skills, the scores range from 3.5 to 4.0 on the 4-point scale. Most mean scores are over 3.85. These feedback evaluations were instituted during the fourth quarter of 2017.



The Bureau of Mine Safety assisted Vulcan Materials in their annual refresher training in Carlsbad in August, 2017. The State Mine Inspector directed a First Aid scenario that required participants to evaluate, treat, and package for transport a simulated injured person at a remote location using only materials available in a pick-up truck. Terry Walker (Associate State Mine Inspector) was then a Vulcan employee. Mr. Walker and Robert Hooten assisted with the training.

2016 Accomplishments

Mine Emergency Management

The major initiative in 2017 continued to be promoting an incident command system in response to the following statutory requirement of 69-5-7.A(2) NMSA 1978:

Upon notification of any explosion or other catastrophic event at a mine in which the lives of mine workers are jeopardized or in which fatalities have occurred, the State Mine Inspector shall allocate available resources within a twenty-four-hour time period to assist the mine operator in the rescue of persons and the subsequent accident investigation;

To meet this requirement, the State Mine Inspector has helped to coordinate efforts made on Mine Emergency Response Development (MERD) exercises at our State's mining operations. These exercises involve the mine's rescue team, state, federal, local EMS and mining industry groups.

The State Mine Inspector attended a MERD exercise conducted at Idaho Springs, Colorado in September. The application of wireless communication and tracking systems in an underground mine rescue scenario was highlighted. Subsequently, the State Mine Inspector coordinated the application of that same equipment (supplied by MSHA) for a 2-day MERD exercise using the Mosaic Potash and Intrepid Potash facilities in Carlsbad.

Subsequent to that experience, the Bureau of Mine Safety has allocated funds to purchase a sufficient quantity of this state-of-the-art emergency communications equipment to provide a more rapid initial response to possible underground mine emergencies in New Mexico.

BMS continues to support mine rescue competitions that hone teams' skills in emergency response. BMS's Chris Hefner has judged competitions at regional levels as well as the MSHA national competition. He also prepares the first aid scenario for the annual SW Regional Mine Rescue Competition. Subsequent to Mr. Hefner's retirement in June, 2017, Terry Walker, who has extensive mine rescue experience was engaged by the Bureau of Mine Safety to fulfill that role.



Chris Hefner of BMS judges miners competing in the Southwest Regional Mine Rescue Competition

Regulatory Issues

At the June 9, 2017 meeting of the Mining Safety Board (MSB) the State Mine Inspector proposed changes in Title 19; Chapter 6; Part 4 of the NMAC "Certification of Coal Mine Officials". The proposed changes would clarify certain certification and recertification issues and codify certain practices employed by the State Mine Inspector in testing and processing certifications and re-certifications. The State Mine Inspector solicited input from the coal mining community in editing the current standards.

At the February, 2018 MSB meeting, a draft was approved for publication and public comment. A final revision is expected following a hearing on May 8, 2017. In addition, the SMI continued his engagement with safety issues at the national level through participation in the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) .

Compliance Assessment

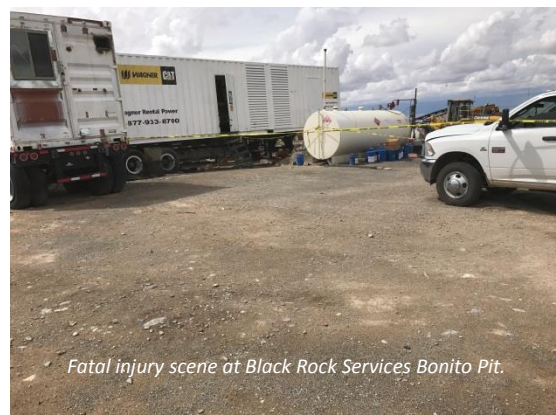
NM Statutes impose strict requirements on the mining industry that must be assessed for compliance by the SMI. Actions completed in 2017 included:

- Review Emergency Notification Plans from mining operations throughout the state. Current status indicates that over 80% of the operators have complied with this requirement. We continue to request information from the remaining operators, although there are no statutory criteria, either through notice of violation or cease and desist orders, to require compliance.
- Review underground mine operators' implementation plans to ensure compliance with mining regulations. Review and approval by the State Mine Inspector included constant communications and frequent site visits during 2017.



Two notices of violation (NOV's) were issued in 2017 for late reporting of accidents under the authority provided the State Mine Inspector under NMSA 69-5-17 (E).

- On April 26, a NOV was issued to Black Rock Services for failure to report a fatal injury within thirty minutes of discovery of an employee who was discovered deceased on March 27, 2017 at the operator's Bonito Pit. The NOV assessment was settled for \$2,000 payable to the State Treasurer.
- On December 1, a NOV was issued to



Fatal injury scene at Black Rock Services Bonito Pit.

Associated Asphalt & Materials for failure to report the death of a person at the operator's Waldo Quarry. The employee suffered a heart failure that was not work related. The NOV assessment was settled for \$2,000 payable to the State Treasurer.

One action was taken by the State Mine Inspector to revoke coal mine foreman certification of an employee of Westmoreland Coal Company's San Juan mine. The employee was complicit in planning and assisting a former employee's unauthorized access to the underground workings at the San Juan mine on August 9, 2017. The event resulted in evacuation of the mine, several safety violations, and modification of ventilation controls, all of which amplified the risk to mine employees. The revocation was unchallenged.

Compliance assistance continues to be a major responsibility for BMS. The Statutes require the State Mine Inspector (SMI) to provide compliance assistance including on-site audits to any mine requesting such service. This service is particularly valuable to small mining businesses in NM. As the economy improves and aggregate operations begin to recover from the recession, this service will be utilized to a greater degree. Also, as MSHA requires greater compliance on health issues such as dust sampling, diesel particulate matter and noise abatement, more effort will be required assisting operators in health related areas.

Safety and Health Training

Engaging miners, through safety training is one of the primary missions of the Bureau of Mine Safety. Despite the state-wide reduction in the mining workforce, the mining industry in New Mexico has increased the number of miners and contractors seeking training from BMS.

This trend will likely continue as operators assign more tasks and activities to contractors. Safety & health training was delivered to 2,384 miners, contractors and other personnel from diverse mining environments in 2017. BMS is particularly proud of its miner training program delivered in Spanish. 180 of those miners were trained in Spanish language classes.

As our mines continue to suffer from economic uncertainty, we have enjoyed a period of extremely safe operations, evidenced by fatality statistics. Nationally, 2017 was the second safest year on record for mining fatalities. Up until March 24, no fatal mining incidents had been reported in New Mexico dating back to May of 2013. The number of reportable mine injuries and illnesses in New Mexico dropped from a high of 119 in 2016 to 107 in 2017. The nature of those 107 incidents was less traumatic than those recorded in the previous two years. BMS training and programs were a significant contributor to this success. Only one operator in 2017 experienced more than 10 MSHA reportable injuries.

Coal Mine Officials Certification Program

BMS also provided testing and new certification for 69 miners and recertified 183 coal mine officials in 2017.

During 2017, a review of re-certification requirements and testing criteria for coal mining officials was continued. This has been a collaborative process with the coal mining industry in New Mexico. The data base of questions continues to be reviewed by the BMS to keep testing relevant.



BMS has been working with coal mining companies in New Mexico on the recertification process. In June, the State Mine Inspector proposed changes to the Certification and Recertification rules contained in the NMAC 19.6.4. Those changes, following public notice and comment, are expected to be ratified by the Mining Safety Board in May, 2018 and will help to clarify and streamline the process.

Certified mine officials are subject to recertification after five years. This is accomplished through either retesting or confirmed completion of an SMI approved recertification program.

Mine Safety Awards

BMS was instrumental in arranging the mine safety awards at the annual New Mexico Mining Association meeting in September. There were over 150 attendees at this convention, including representatives of mining companies, contractors, legislators, Governor's cabinet and government agencies. Awards were presented for:

- Safe operator of the year award was presented to four operations representing different mine categories. Three of these sites worked for a full year with no reportable accidents. These operations prove that "zero" accidents at mines is a very obtainable goal.
The other award winners are listed in the table below.
- 113 zero-frequency certificates were awarded to mining organizations

throughout New Mexico. These certificates were given to individual organizations or different departments within larger companies that were accident-free for a year.

2017 Safe Operator of the Year		
Category	Company Name	Mine Name
Surface Coal	Peabody New Mexico Services, LLC	El Segundo Mine
Underground Metal/Non-metal	Mosaic Potash Carlsbad, Inc	Mosaic Potash Carlsbad
Metal/Non-Metal Mills	Intrepid Potash—New Mexico, LLC	North Plant
Non-Producing Operations	Peabody New Mexico Services, LLC	Lee Ranch Mine

The Bureau of Mine Safety continues to recognize excellence in Mine Rescue by sponsoring the traveling trophy for first place overall in the annual Southwestern Regional Mine Rescue competition.

The State Mine Inspector also serves as one of the impartial judges in determining the selection of the annual Outstanding Contribution to Safety (OCS) awarded by the New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference.

Perhaps the most effective recognition is achieved in the BMS safety training classes where one-on-one recognition for each participant's contribution to safety is realized in the injury or illness that did not occur.



Communications

In an effort to communicate more effectively and cohesively with the mining industry, our website continues to expand and is updated to insure that information is readily available to the industry as well as the public. The BMS maintains two links to the website:

www.mbi.state.nm.us & www.nmminesafety.com

During 2017, numerous meetings were held with miners and operators throughout the state to promote the application of effective safety and health systems and practices at New Mexico Mines, to share safety & health insights, and to address concerns of the miners and operators. A significant effort was also extended to keep the Office of the Governor informed of mine safety issues through the Mining and Minerals Division Director and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Secretary. The New Mexico Mining Association, the Mining Safety Board, and the New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference provided additional avenues of communication with the New Mexico mining industry.

New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference

During 2017 BMS personnel, along with the NM mining industry contributed to bring the tenth annual New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference to our State. This event is well attended by representatives of labor, management, contractors, regulators and safety professionals. The event is one of the premier state-wide conferences in the country. New Mexico Tech again hosted the function with events held on the campus in Socorro. The conference exceeded 100 attendees along with product exhibitors. These are some of the images of the 2017 event.



NMT President Stephen Wells (center) enjoys a conversation with Mining Safety Board Chair Jeff Gordon (right) at an informal pre-conference gathering hosted by Dr. Wells at the President's residence.



Retired SMI Terence Foreback presents the Outstanding Contribution to Safety award to Kenny Jensen, Electrical Supervisor, Mosaic Potash Carlsbad, Inc.



2017 New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference





Keynote Speaker Dr. Ted Boyce of California speaks on the role of interpersonal relationships in safety



Keynote Speaker Ben Hart of Florida Speaks on using humor to show that you care



US DOL—MSHA SouthCentral M/NM District Manager, Mike Davis –Luncheon Address

Mining Safety Board (MSB)

The New Mexico Mining Safety Board continues to be a vibrant organization working to ensure the safety of our State's miners. The SMI worked closely with the MSB during 2017 and continued a program to educate members on various aspects of mining. Meetings are scheduled across the state so mining operations can be visited and experts in technical subject matter may address the board.



MSB Board Members Allen Norris(L) and Jeff Cook(R) and El Segundo Dragline

- January, Albuquerque, WC presentation, Douglas Christopherson, Lynn & Associates
- June , Grants, New Mexico Mining Museum & Peabody Energy, El Segundo Mine
- September, Albuquerque, NMMA Convention

During 2017, MSB members' attendance at our meetings was excellent and membership remained steady at 10 (of 13). As of this report, vice-chair Monty Owens resigned from the board citing a change in occupation. There are now four vacancies on the board. Three candidates for appointment have been filed with the Governor's office to help replenish the board membership. In June, 2017. The MSB initiated steps to address a request from the State Mine Inspector to revise certain provisions of 19-6-4 NMAC concerning certification and recertification of coal mine officials. The proposed changes would clarify some of the procedures and applications as well as codify some of the procedures employed by the SMI. The process carried over into 2018 and is expected to be finalized by the MSB in May of that year.

Federal Grants



The BMS again compiled its major grant application during 2017 for the federal FY 2017. This application was successful in renewing the grant agreement between the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. The grant has been utilized by BMS to train New Mexico miners to meet the training requirements of MSHA as required in 30CFR parts 46 and 48. The grant application and award process for funding was delayed due to Federal budget issues. Ultimately, based upon the unexpected generosity of the U.S. Congress, MSHA increased the 2017 grant by 46% above the initial application amount. Because of the delay, MSHA issued a 12-month extension on the funding so that the surplus money could be

thoughtfully applied to improved mine safety and health training. The increased funding from MSHA allowed the Bureau of Mine Safety to (among other initiatives), reduce the fees charged to operators in 2018 by about 50%, provide supplemental training materials, upgrade training equipment used for mine safety and health training and for first-aid training, and permit staff to attend safety & health conferences focused on safety training.

MSHA continues to offer grants well into the fiscal year making budgeting a complex process. State allocation has helped with managing our commitments to New Mexico's miners and our small businesses that rely on the BMS training to meet their MSHA regulatory requirements. We anticipate that the FY 2018 MSHA grant and future grants will return to previous levels.



The MSHA grant is vital to BMS who would otherwise have to increase fees for training by a factor of 5 presenting a major expense to the operators of small mining operations. It should be noted that BMS does not charge county and state organizations for training. If our grant funding were cut, we would be unable to train these groups. In 2017, the BMS was awarded \$195,768 from MSHA State Grants. New Mexico's 20% match added \$ 48,942 to the BMS training budget.

Counsel from Attorney General

Counsel provided by the Attorney General's Office was utilized in rulemaking, consideration of violations and other areas of decision making. This service has been invaluable in support of such actions as issuing violations, negotiating settlement agreements, defining statutory issues and other legal matters.



Succession of State Mine Inspectors

NAME	DATES	ORDER	LENGTH OF SERVICE
Rees H. Beddow	1912 - 1916	1 st	4 yrs
W. W. Risdon	1916 - 1919	2 nd	3 yrs
Jo E. Sheridan	1919 - 1920	3 rd	<1 yr
W. W. Risdon	1920 - 1925	4 th	5 yrs
Warren Bracewell	1925 - 1927	5 th	2 yrs
W. W. Risdon	1927 - 1931	6 th	4 yrs
Warren Bracewell	1931 - 1947	7 th	16 yrs
John Anthony Garcia	1947 - 1959	8 th	12 yrs
John Grbac	1959	9 th	<1 yr
William H. Hays	1959 - 1973	10 th	14 yrs
Joe D. Longacre, Sr	1973 - 1981	11 th	8 yrs
Desi Apodaca	1981 - 1982	12 th	2 yrs
Manual Duran	1982 - 1986	13 th	4 yrs
Desi Apodaca	1986 - 1996	14 th	10 yrs
Gilbert Miera	1996 - 2002	15 th	6 yrs
Paul Pierce	2002 - 2005	16 th	3 yrs
Rebecca Boam	2005 - 2006	17 th	2 yrs
Terence Foreback	2007 - 2016	18 th	9 yrs
Randy Logsdon	2017 -	19 th	New

Bureau of Mine Safety Staff

In 2017, the Bureau of Mine Safety experienced the loss of two valued employees to retirement.

- Suzanne Barteau was a valued assistant in the office who left in April to travel and spend quality time with family. In May, the Bureau acquired Debora McVey who has proven to be very responsive to fulfilling the administrative role.
- Chris Hefner was a seasoned trainer and respected Associate State Mine Inspector. Chris' institutional knowledge has already been greatly missed since his June retirement. In September, Terry Walker who brings a wealth of training and mine rescue experience was welcomed to the BMS to fulfill the Associate SMI role.

2018 Goals

Mine Emergency Management

During 2018, the Mine Emergency Management process will continue. Our goal of providing for a seamless incident command structure between the mining operation, state officials, federal inspectors and local emergency response organizations in the event of a mine emergency will be enhanced by performing extensive drills at mine sites.

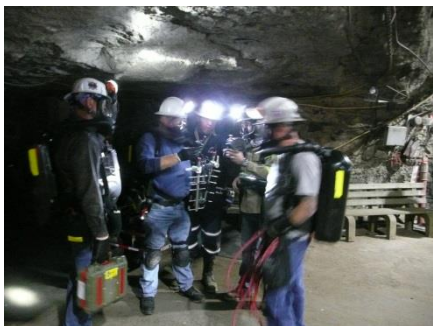
The 2018 goal is to help coordinate a Mine Emergency Response Drill in New Mexico. This was actually accomplished early in January, 2018 with coordinated underground scenarios worked by mine rescue teams and company Incident Command systems at Mosaic Potash and at Intrepid Potash. The event featured the introduction of wireless communication and tracking systems.



Command Center personnel monitor progress of mine rescue teams at Intrepid Potash

The State Mine Inspector in conjunction with DHSEM personnel will work with local, county, state emergency managers, as well as federal and state mine safety personnel.

BMS will continue our efforts on mine rescue competitions in conjunction with industry and MSHA. Staff will be provided for the Southwestern Regional Mine Rescue Competition (April, 2018) and (upon request) for other regional competitions, including the bi-annual National M/NM mine rescue contest in Lexington, KY (July, 2018).



Mine Rescue team deploys wireless communication node underground

The State Mine Inspector initiated steps in 2017 to procure an early response set of wireless communication & tracking equipment that may be deployed relatively quickly for an underground mine rescue. The state-of-the-art equipment is compatible with and may be supplemented by a large cache of equipment maintained by MSHA in Denver. Delivery (followed by training) is expected in June, 2018.

Legislative and Regulatory Issues

The SMI will continue to act as a contact and informational source regarding any mining

legislation involving mining safety. During 2018, the SMI will cooperate with legislators, unions and industry representatives to implement changes in statutes that will enhance mining safety. The State Mine Inspector will continue to support and advise the Mining Safety Board and recommend regulatory action as needed.

Mine Safety Inquiries from the Office of the Governor

The office of the New Mexico State Mine Inspector will continue to be the focus for the Office of the Governor for information and expert opinion regarding mine safety issues. Response to these inquiries will continue to be handled expeditiously.

The SMI also plans active involvement with the Interstate Mining Compact Commission on the IMCC safety committee giving New Mexico a voice on national mining safety issues.

Compliance Assessment

During 2018 compliance assessments will continue to be a priority for BMS. Compliance assessment consists of reviewing mine operations on a yearly basis. The emergency notification plans for all mine operators will be reviewed annually as well. BMS works with the operators on any unresolved issues or gaps in the plans.

Safety and Health Training

Safety and health training will continue as the primary avenue to improved accident and injury prevention in New Mexico. We anticipate reaching well over 1,500 miners in 2018.



BMS trains contractors such as this drill crew from Daniel B. Stephens that work on large mining operations drilling for hydrologic monitoring

It is anticipated that cut backs in the mining industry will continue to produce a need for greater training capabilities from the BMS due to mining companies utilizing more contractors. It is also anticipated that Spanish-language training will be a growing need in New Mexico. With MSHA's aid, we anticipate that the reduced fees charged to operators will encourage participation in this important program.

Currently this training is limited. The BMS is one of the few organizations with a trainer who is both fluent in Spanish and an MSHA certified instructor. At current funding levels the BMS training program can continue to meet the current demand and likely expand services through 2018 and beyond.

Certification of Coal Mine Officials

The coal officials' certification program will continue to be updated to remain relevant. Review of material required for recertification continues with operators regarding the recertification of officials and the continuing implementation of that process. Proposed revisions to current code regarding certification and recertification are expected to be finalized in 2018. This will help to streamline the processes somewhat, and ensure that quality personnel are certified for these critical safety and health roles. BMS will continue to recertify officials before yearly expiration dates of their certificates.

Mine Safety Awards

BMS will continue this critical tool to communicate successes of safety programs throughout New Mexico. In order to continue this program, it is important to maintain the partnership between BMS and NMMA. The BMS also plans to communicate the availability of the program to encourage participation by more of the New Mexico mining industry.

Communications

The BMS plans to continue several 2017 initiatives to improve our communications with the public and the mining industry. Our goal for 2018 is to encourage use of the BMS website as an essential learning and research tool. The site is the primary resource for training schedules, monthly newsletters, BMS reports, emergency mine notification and other mine safety issues. In 2017, the BMS opened a YouTube channel that we hope to populate with effective short-subject videos into 2018. Effective communications with stakeholders will continue to be a major goal of 2018. As in 2017, on-site interaction with the mining community, the Office of the Governor, NMT staff and other governmental entities will continue to be a communications focus.

Mining Safety Board

Education and regulatory policy will be a primary focus of the MSB. Contributing to the overall safety of NM miners and continuing our excellent safety performance will also be a priority of the MSB. Completion of revisions to the coal mine officials' certification and recertification rules is the primary focus in early 2018. The SMI and the board Chair will work with the Governor's office to help expedite the appointment of qualified individuals willing to serve on the MSB.

Mine Accident Prevention

Across the nation in 2017, mining fatalities were at their second lowest level ever reported (see figure 1). Twenty-eight (28) fatal mine injuries occurred in the United

States in 2017 vs. 25 in 2016. Unfortunately, one of those 28 fatal injuries occurred to a New Mexico miner on March 24.

The total reportable incident (TRIR) rate for all our mines in New Mexico exceeded the 2017 national average last year. The incident rate is a calculation that measures the number of injury and illness incidents against exposure levels—incidents per 200,000 man-hours. Miners employed by mine operators in New Mexico (Coal & Metal/Non-metal) Mining were injured at a rate of 3.09 per 200,000 man-hours. Nationally, miners were injured at a rate of 2.11 per 200,000 man-hours.

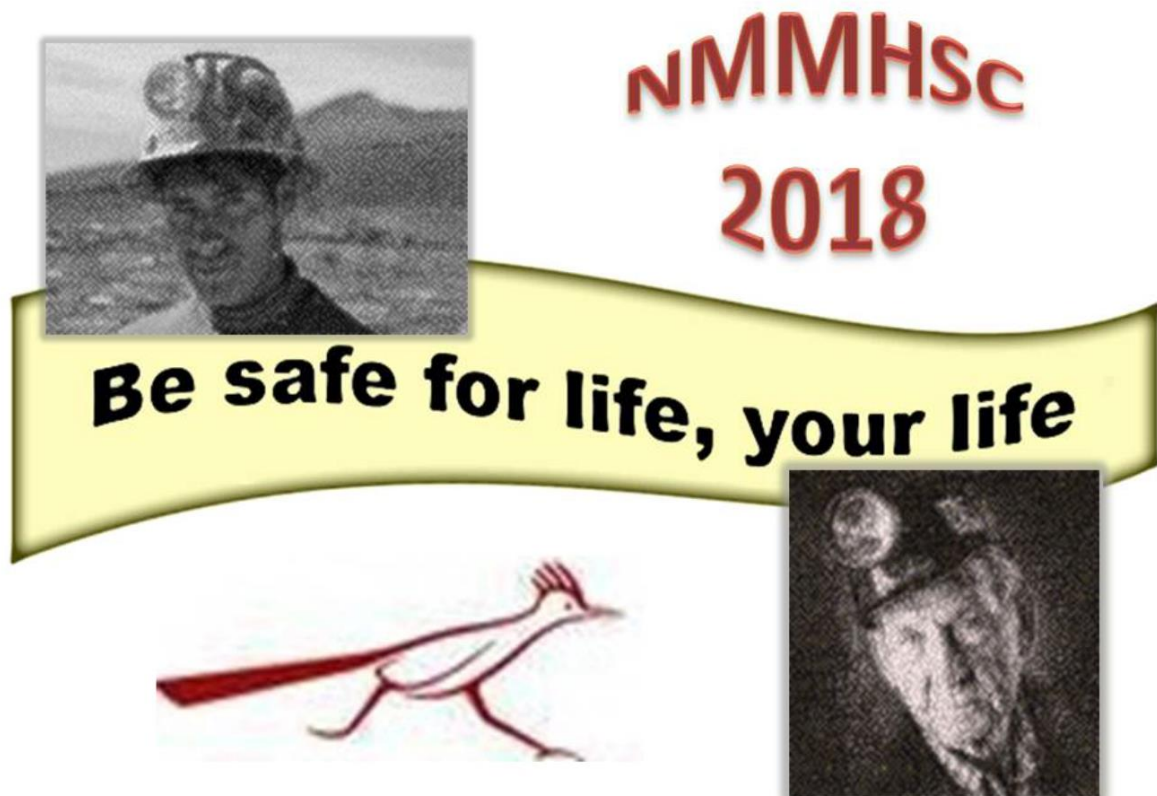
At the close of the 2017 calendar year, the SMI again gathered and analyzed New Mexico mine injury data to identify various sources of mine injury in the state. This exercise proved to be valuable in directing the focus of the SMI in assisting operators' efforts to mitigate those conditions and practices that have led to serious injury. The SMI will continue such analysis on a quarterly basis, report findings to the mining community and take actions necessary to reverse negative trends. The BMS will continue to focus on improved training of our miners, including improved approaches to risk management by mining companies, technical advances in equipment and systems and laws and regulations.

Afterword

The state mine inspector is privileged to work closely with the New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference (NMMHSC) and to facilitate the organization's mission to reduce mine injuries through education. (Page 9 - 11) Through generous donations and volunteer help from the New Mexico mining industry and allied contractors, the NMMHSC has been able to produce an outstanding safety and health agenda over the last 10 years. Looking forward to the 11th annual Conference, May 9-11, 2018 at Albuquerque, an outstanding conference will once again inspire and educate New Mexico's miners, operators, contractors, and regulators.

It's also the individual commitment to one another that often defines the difference between returning home safe at the end of a shift or being transported for medical treatment.

The 2018 Conference theme Be Safe for Life—Your Life emphasizes the value of employing good safety and health practices throughout a mining career.



BE SAFE FOR LIFE, YOUR LIFE

At 25, a young recruit lands a new job as a miner. Initially attracted by the good pay, Pat eventually becomes captivated by the mining industry and decides to make mining a career. Early on, our miner learns the basics of occupational safety and health and those principles are reinforced annually and in the course of the daily routine through safety meetings, experience, and safety program involvement. Those lessons took on greater meaning one day when Pat was about to take a safety shortcut. One of the old timers pulled our young miner to the side and with a stern look on his face said, “**Look kid, if you wanna live to be as old as me, you gotta be safe all the time.**”

Over the course of the last 40-years, Pat has performed thousands of tasks for multiple employers at several mining locations with one common thread--practicing safety on the job and off the job. At 65, retirement is just around the corner and upon reflection, Pat realizes that safety really does play a huge role in both the span and the quality of life. Over the last 39-years, nearly 4,000 other miners were killed on the job*. Countless others were killed off-the-job. Applying the slogan “Be Safe For Life, Your Life” certainly paid off for Pat.

*Between 1978 and 2016, a combined total of 3,936 miners were killed in coal and metal/non-metal mines. In the last 10 years, 452 miners were killed.