



State of West Virginia
Joe Manchin III, Governor

WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All WV Mine Operations

FROM: Jim Dean, Acting Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Dean".

DATE: July 18, 2006

RE: Mine Examinations

I'd like to remind all mine operators of the importance of mine examinations. It is imperative that the mine environment and equipment examinations be made as required. I should also point out that the examinations required by state and federal regulations represent minimum standards and additional examinations can and should be made when necessary.

More recently there has been a disturbing increase in fires along conveyor belts. WV Code 22A-2-39(f)(2) requires all conveyor belts to be examined at least once a shift. Conveyor belts also must not be started until an examination is completed if an examination was not made on the previous shift. An examination of each conveyor belt must also be made following the last production shift each week or before idle periods in accordance with WV Code 22A-2-39(f)(1). WV Code 22A-2-40(20) requires all electrical equipment to be examined weekly, tested, and properly maintained by a qualified person to assure safe operating conditions. This requirement obviously applies to all conveyor belt electrical mechanisms and installations. Proper examinations and adequate maintenance should go a long way toward assuring that fires along conveyor belts do not occur.

Pre-shift and on-shift examinations along with weekly examinations of air courses are equally important. OMHST inspectors have been asked to shift their focus if necessary to ensure that required examinations are being properly made. Considering the recent fatal accident trend, I can not over emphasize the importance of proper mine examinations.

Thank you in advance for ensuring that these items are being done and done well.

JMD:ks