



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOB WISE, GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF MINERS' HEALTH,
SAFETY AND TRAINING
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MEMORANDUM

TO: WEST VIRGINIA SURFACE COAL MINE
OPERATIONS

FROM: DOUG CONAWAY, DIRECTOR 

DATE: MAY 18, 2004

RE: STROBE LIGHTS

Large trucks and oversized mining equipment present a significant safety concern because of blind spots that exist in the operator's field of vision.

Smaller vehicles can enter these blind spots undetected by the operator of the larger equipment. This situation can and has resulted in the death of several individuals within the state.

Current WV state law requires contact to be made with the operator of a larger vehicle prior to approaching that vehicle. Also, the operator of a large truck shall make sure the truck's path is unobstructed before moving.

In addition, the WV Office of Miners Health Safety and Training is asking all surface mine companies to place strobe lights on all smaller vehicles that are traveling on haul roads and in active pit areas. Smaller vehicles include service trucks, fuel trucks, foreman's vehicle, man trips, and other similar vehicles.

We appreciate your assistance in this effort and would encourage you to continue to emphasize to all employees the need to use extreme caution when approaching large equipment.

JDC:ks