



Brake Failures Cause Death

According to MSHA, seven miners have died in incidents involving mobile equipment since October 2001. Five incidents occurred when equipment operators lost control of mobile equipment. Defective brakes were a factor in four out of five of these incidents. Two incidents happened when parking brakes were not fully set.

To combat these accidents, MSHA offers the following best practices.

- Mobile equipment brake systems should be maintained to the original equipment manufacturer's specifications.
- Original equipment manufacturer's load limits should not be exceeded.
- Regularly scheduled brake system examinations should be conducted.
- Mobile equipment brake systems should be tested before the equipment is placed into service to assure they are operational and capable of stopping the equipment.
- Mobile equipment should not be left unattended unless the controls are placed in the park position and the parking brake is set.
- When parked on a grade, the wheels of mobile equipment should either be chocked or turned into a bank.
- Roadways should be maintained in a manner conducive to safe travel.
- Mobile equipment should be operated at speeds compatible with road and weather conditions. Signs warning equipment operators of road hazards and safe speeds should be posted at all approaches.

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