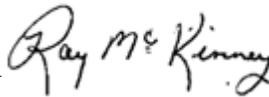


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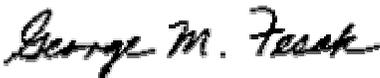
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GEORGE M. FESAK  
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SUBJECT: Immediate Notification of Accidents, and Written Reporting Requirements

**Who needs this information?**

Mine operators including independent contractors, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) enforcement personnel, miners' representatives, and other interested parties need this information.

**Why is MSHA issuing this bulletin?**

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the basic requirements for mine operators to immediately notify MSHA about certain mine accidents, and also to report in writing using MSHA Form 7000-1 those accidents as well as occupational injuries and illnesses.

**When and how must MSHA be notified?**

Under 30 CFR 50.10, the mine operator must notify MSHA immediately when an "accident" occurs. "Accident" is defined at 30 CFR 50.2(h). An accident is any one of the items listed in the definition, and includes the death of a person, personal injury

potentially causing death, and various unplanned events at the mine. The operator notifies the Agency by “immediately contacting,” such as by telephone, the local MSHA district or field office, or failing that, MSHA’s headquarters office in Arlington, Virginia (1-800-746-1553). This notification alerts MSHA to mine occurrences deserving urgent attention.

**What needs to be reported to MSHA, and how?**

Under 30 CFR 50.20, the operator must report each accident, occupational injury, and occupational illness at the mine. “Occupational injury” and “occupational illness” are defined at 30 CFR 50.2(e) and 50.2(f), respectively. Occupational injuries range from injuries requiring medical treatment beyond first aid to those resulting in death. The reporting is done on an MSHA Form 7000-1, and is to be completed and sent to MSHA within 10 working days after the accident or injury occurs or the illness is diagnosed. The 7000-1 forms render statistical data for MSHA to gauge trends and pursue prevention.

**Can an event be subject to both the notification and the reporting requirements?**

As indicated above, an event, such as the death of a person, can be both an “accident” and an “occupational injury” requiring both notification and reporting. In that case, since an accident has occurred, MSHA must be immediately notified. A completed 7000-1, to satisfy the reporting requirement, would also subsequently be due within 10 working days, the operator filling in the applicable information as instructed on the form.

**What is the background for this bulletin?**

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission (FMSHRC) recently upheld a citation issued by MSHA in a case concerning the accident notification requirement. In its decision, FMSHRC recommended that it would be beneficial to the mining community for MSHA to clarify when it is urgent to immediately notify MSHA and when written reporting is required.

**Who are the contact persons for this bulletin?**

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**Is this bulletin on the Internet?**

This information bulletin may be viewed on the World Wide Web by accessing the MSHA home page (<http://www.msha.gov>) and then choosing “Rules & Regs” and “Compliance Assistance Information,” and then “Program Information Bulletins.”

**What is the authority for this bulletin?**

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 30, Part 50

**Who will receive this bulletin?**

Program Policy Manual Holders

Mine Operators

Independent Contractors

Miners’ Representatives

Special Interest Groups