

Accident Investigations

- Fatal
- Serious
- What to Expect



The Purpose

The purpose of the accident investigation is to determine the root cause or causes for the purpose of prevention









The Notification

Follow your notification plan!

- 911 / Emergency Action Plan
- MSHA
- ASMI



The Orders

- MSHA
- 103 (J) Rescue Recovery
- 103 (K) Safety of the Miner / MSHA approval to enter site (secure site for investigation)
- ASMI
- ARS 27-309 Notification and Investigation (secure site for investigation)



Typical Response

- First Response:
- First Responder / PD / SO / Fire / EMS
- Precautions: Company should seek out Fire EMS Command and maintain safety.
- Company should advise and document PD and SO of the orders.



Media

- Have a prepared statement with very limited information because it is under investigation!
- Media may be formal with cameras at the mine gate and request for entry
- Journalist, Newspaper, Radio
- Workforce Cell Phones



MSHA / ASMI Response

- Local MSHA AR
- To be followed by the Investigation team usually flown in and arriving the next day.
- MSHA tech support members and EFS may arrive a day later.
- Two ASMI Inspectors



Medical Examiners Office

- Expectations from the Investigators are:
- The victim of the accident has been removed from the scene for medical care.
- The victim was pronounced on the scene and will be removed by the Medical Examiners office



The Attorneys Arrive

- This is not actually a bad thing!
- Attorneys can actually facilitate



HR / Safety Support / Consultants

- Facilitates the Investigation with records request, transportation, logistics, technical information



The Meet and Greet

Common Model:

Introductions and the exchange of
Business Cards

Establishing Company Representative and
Lead Investigators for MSHA & State.

The prepared statement (when, who,
where and what happened)



Questions and Requests

- Was this event witnessed and by whom?
- Request List: witness list and statements
- Victims information, full name, age dob, address, phone, family, title and work experience, shift work, overtime.....
- Training Documents, New Hire, Refresher, Task Training, Safety Meetings....
- Technical Information, Equipment, SOP's
- Maintenance Records, Workplace and Equipment Examination Records



Requests Continued

- Event Timeline
- Work Procedures
- More to follow depending upon investigation discovery



Accident Scene

Who:

MSHA & ASMI

Company and Miners Representative

Law Enforcement and Medical Examiner



Accident Scene

Investigation Activity:

Photos – General to Focused

Sketches, Site Drawings & Measurements

GPS

Video Camera

Notes



Witness Interviews

Who?

- Direct witnesses
- Personnel who did not witness but have knowledge of equipment, conditions, practices

When? As soon as possible

- Where? At the site, Administration offices, Hospital



Witness Interviews

- MSHA & ASMI will usually interview together
- Interviews are voluntary and separate
- May be recorded
- Company may ask follow up questions



Technical Testing & Analysis

- This is where tech support, the company and the consultants test the components and recreate events.
- The investigation team may want to place the equipment in the same locations and take measurements and photos
- The investigation team may want to go to different location where the same activity is ongoing to evaluate.



Review & Closeout Conference

- The length of the investigation will vary depending on the complexity
- At the conclusion of the on-site investigation a closeout with management and labor to discuss the preliminary findings and conclusions of the investigation.



The Reports

- Preliminary report 48 hours
- Fatalgram
- Formal Report weeks to months



Thank You

