Accident Investigations

- Fatal
- Serious
- What to Expect
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
– 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