

# H A L T

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## SURFACE HAULAGE SAFETY ALERT!!



In Virginia, from January 2002 through March, 2003, one (1) fatality and 125 accidents occurred at surface coal mining operations that resulted in work days lost or restricted duty. Maintenance, slipping and falling, handling materials and machinery accounted for 104 of these accidents.

A re-newed focus and intensified safety efforts must be directed toward powered haulage equipment as this classification continues to be involved in the highest number of 2002 and 2003 surface fatalities. In the above photos a hauler operator received fatal injuries when he backed a 773 hauler through a berm, over an embankment, and overturned into a refuse impoundment. It is not known if the victim jumped or was ejected from the truck. The victim was backing the hauler approximately 400 feet to the dumping location. The accident occurred at approximately 5:55 a.m. and the victim was recovered at 1:25 p.m.

### SAFETY KEYPOINTS:

- ✓ Always maintain three point contact according to equipment design when mounting and dismounting.
- ✓ Perform a thorough equipment pre-operational inspection at the beginning of every shift.
- ✓ Reduce equipment speed and test brakes prior to operating on steep grades.
- ✓ Design haulage patterns and practices to minimize the need for travel in reverse for extended distances.
- ✓ Mark dump locations clearly with reflectors and/or other markers.
- ✓ Locate dump points so that drivers can use the driver's side mirrors on the short side for visibility while backing.
- ✓ Construct proper berms of firm material equal to mid-axle height of the largest truck, along all haulage roads, and adequate berms should be maintained at dumping points.

#### PLEASE POST "2003"

For additional information or assistance, contact the Division of Mines, Big Stone Gap (276) 523-8227 or Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533

ACCIDENT  
REDUCTION PROGRAM

