

MINERAL MINING: WINTER SAFETY TIPS

- Freezing and thawing conditions affect highwall stability. Watch for loose and falling rocks when working near highwalls. Never position yourself between equipment and highwalls.
- Frost, ice, snow, and mud on steps and catwalks increase slip and fall hazards. Use caution when traveling elevated walkways and mounting and dismounting equipment. Always use handrails and don't forget to use three points of contact.
- Icy and muddy conditions increase braking time and distance needed to control heavy mobile equipment. Equipment operators should think ahead when operating in these conditions. Remember: Always wear seatbelts when equipment is in motion.
- Keep windshields, windows, and mirrors on all mobile equipment free of frost, ice, snow, and mud for a clear line of vision.
- Use caution when troubleshooting batteries and jump-starting equipment. Battery problems are common during winter weather. When jump starting equipment be sure to position yourself safely, use proper electrical connections and adequate size boosting cables, and wear proper protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, etc.).
- Hypothermia slows reaction time and can kill. Dress for the weather but watch heavy clothing that may interfere with your mobility, vision, or hearing. Also, watch bulky clothing around electric heaters, open flames, and machinery.

