

## DMM Safety Alert:

### Clearing The Way Prior to Moving Mobile Equipment

Across the country, miners continue to be at risk when working on the ground near moving mobile equipment. In May 2008, a Virginia miner was seriously injured when he was crushed between a contractor's service truck and an excavator bucket. The service truck was being backed into position in preparation for repairs to the excavator's stick and stick cylinder. The injured miner suffered multiple fractures to his pelvic bone. It is important that miners are aware of where they are in relationship to mobile equipment near by and that operators communicate their intentions prior to moving equipment. The following Virginia Division of Mineral Mining safety regulations address hazards of this nature:

- Equipment operators shall be certain, by signal or other means, that all persons are clear before starting or moving equipment. (4VAC25-40-1340)
- Heavy duty mobile equipment shall be provided with audible warning devices. (4VAC25-40-1570)



- An automatic backup alarm which is audible above surrounding noise levels shall be provided on heavy duty mobile equipment which has an obstructed view to the rear. (4VAC25-40-1580)