



# DMM Safety Alert: Accident Reporting

From March 2008 through September 2009, 3 serious injury accidents and one fatality occurred at mineral mines in Virginia that were not immediately reported to the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) as required by the Mineral Mine Safety Laws of Virginia and the Virginia Safety and Health Regulations for Mineral Mining. In each of these accidents, the operator did not secure and leave the accident scene undisturbed until DMM had investigated, as is also required by the laws and regulations. These requirements help to ensure the safety of Virginia's miners by allowing DMM to investigate and identify the root cause of the accident, and keep others from being exposed to potentially dangerous equipment, conditions and procedures. When accidents occur, mine operators, and others must comply with the following law, regulation and DMM policy/recommendations:

- The law (**45.1-161.292:51.A.**) states, in part:
  - Each operator shall report promptly to the Department (DMME) the occurrence at any mine of any accident involving serious personal injury or death to any person or persons, whether employed in the mine or not. The scene of the accident shall not be disturbed pending an investigation.
- The regulation (**4VAC25-40-50.1.**) states, in part:
  - The duties of mine operators include, "Report any accident involving serious personal injury or death to any person on the mine property. The report shall be made to the division (DMM) by the quickest available means, and the scene of the accident shall not be disturbed until an investigation is conducted by the division."
- DMM policy/recommendations include:
  - Any serious injury or death taking place on a mine property must be reported whether related to the mining operation or not.
  - The report must be made *directly* to an employee of DMM. Messages, voice mails, etc. are not acceptable!
  - When in doubt, call the DMM office or your mine inspector!!

