

**“Take-2”
SAFETY SHARE
MAY 2010**

Case Studies

A review of accident narratives (descriptions) show that a significant number of injuries and fatalities in the mining industry (and away from work too) stem from the failure of workers to correctly identify specific hazards, as well as the improper response to these hazards should they be seen. In a rush to start work or begin a task, it is easy to fail to take the time necessary to observe the work environment around them, think through the entire activity to be performed in order to identify potential hazards, or skip steps associated with inspections of equipment and work areas. Similarly, in the event of an emergency situation or accident, people often react in ways that put themselves in greater risk for injury without thinking of the consequences or alternative courses of actions. A few case examples include:

- An experienced equipment operator at a surface coal mine sustained serious burns and smoke inhalation as he attempted to extinguish a large fire that had engulfed a wheel-loader fire with a small fire extinguisher;
- While task training a new mucker operator at an underground mine, an experienced miner was killed as a consequence of being struck by the machine as he ran to the aid of the operator, who had become partially buried by rock from a development raise;
- A mechanic was seriously injured due to the failure of support scaffolding during the renovation of a tank at a surface copper mine. The mechanic assumed the scaffolding had been erected properly during the previous shift and checked by project supervisors. In fact, neither took place. In a rush to complete the job, the mechanic failed to inspect the scaffolding himself prior to beginning work.

Discussion

The concept behind “Take-2” is to emphasize the importance of taking time to observe the work environment around you prior to beginning any activity, as well as throughout the shift. This includes performing pre & post shift inspections and following approved work practices as required by company policy and government regulation. Prior initiating any activity, think about each task which makes up that activity and try to anticipate what potential hazards might exist. Then, take appropriate action to eliminate or mitigate the risk associated these potential hazards.

During emergencies, always take a moment to think and assess a situation before acting. Don’t become part of the problem. Rely on your training, experience, and common sense. The age-old adage: Observe–Think–Act is good one and has saved lives.

Observe → Think (Assess) → Act

Best Practices

- All persons should be properly trained to recognize work place hazards
- Establish safe work procedures before any task is performed
- Be alert to changes and hazards in your work environment