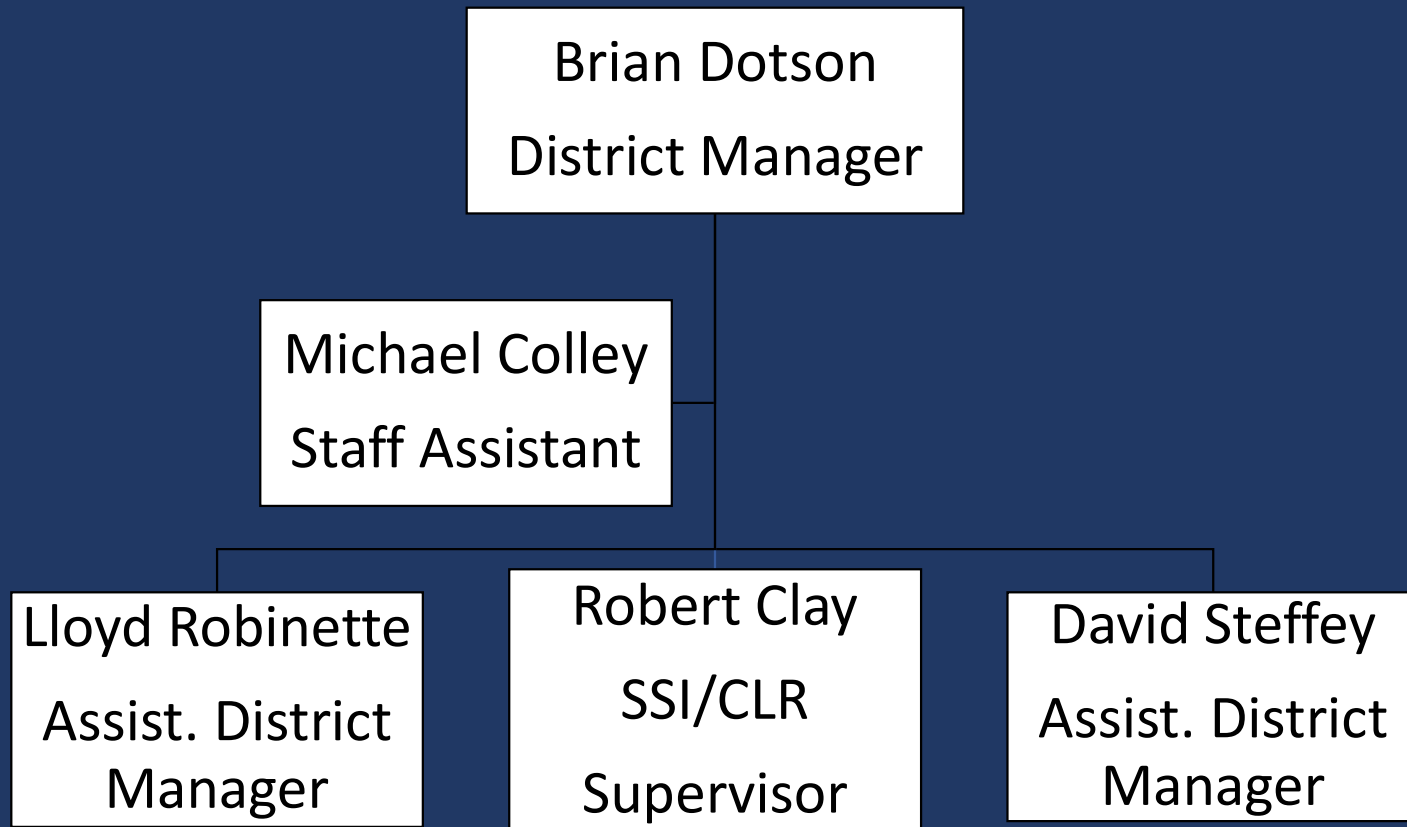




- **2025 VTCA Aggregates Safety & Operations Seminar**
- **December 10-11, 2025**
- **Brian Dotson**
- **District Manager - Norton District**
- **Mine Safety and Health Administration**



Lloyd Robinette  
Assist. District  
Manager

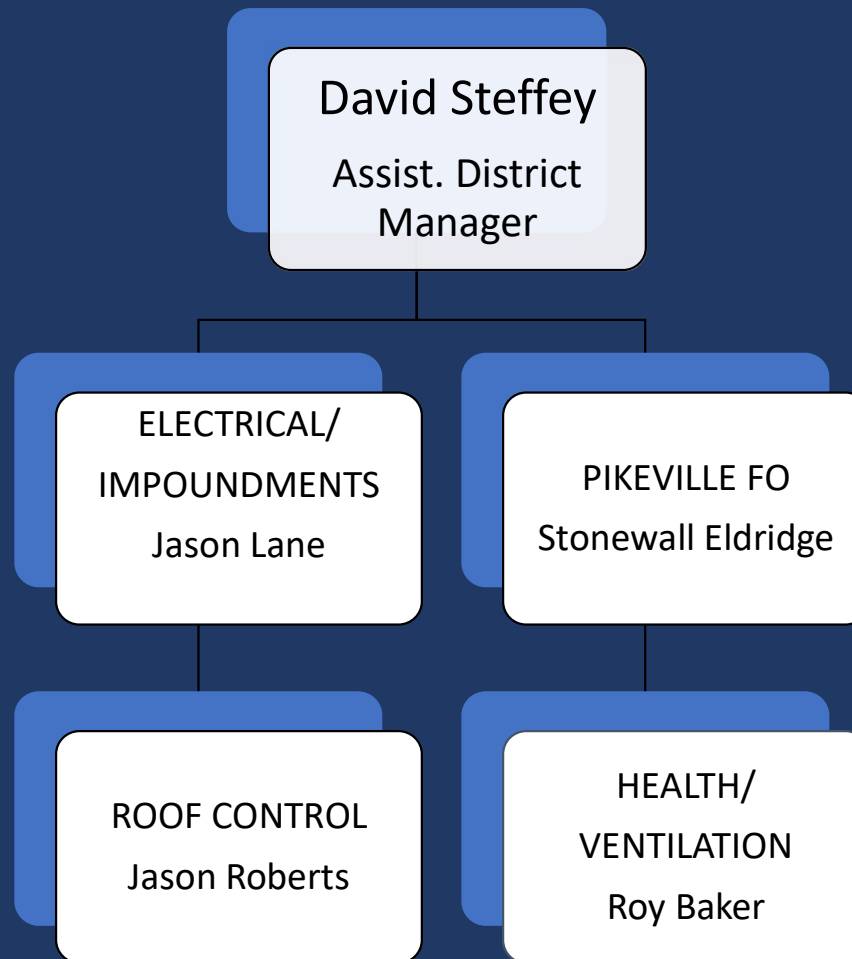
```
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Assist. District  
Manager] --> B[NORTON FO  
Jeff C. Webb  
Anthony Benton]; A --> C[VANSANT FO  
Carl Kevin Cline]; B --> D[SANFORD FO  
Vacant]; C --> E[STAUNTON FO  
Ryan McBryde];
```

NORTON FO  
Jeff C. Webb  
Anthony Benton

SANFORD FO  
Vacant

VANSANT FO  
Carl Kevin Cline

STAUNTON FO  
Ryan McBryde



<b>Norton, VA</b> 716 Spring Ave, SE Suite 200 Wise, VA 24293 Jeffrey Webb Anthony Benton	<a href="mailto:Webb.Jeffrey@dol.gov">Webb.Jeffrey@dol.gov</a> <a href="mailto:Benton.Anthony@dol.gov">Benton.Anthony@dol.gov</a>	276-679-0230
<b>Vasant, VA</b> 13351 Riverside Drive Oakwood, VA 24631 Carl Cline	<a href="mailto:Cline.Carl@dol.gov">Cline.Carl@dol.gov</a>	276-498-1758
<b>Pikeville, KY</b> 100 Fae Ramsey Lane Pikeville, KY 41501 Stonewall Eldridge	<a href="mailto:Eldridge.Stonewall@dol.gov">Eldridge.Stonewall@dol.gov</a>	606-432-0943
<b>Staunton, VA</b> 148 Parkersburg Turnpike Staunton, VA 24401 Timothy McBryde	<a href="mailto:McBryde.Timothy.R@dol.gov">McBryde.Timothy.R@dol.gov</a>	540-887-9682
<b>Sanford, NC</b> 225 Commercial Court Sanford, NC 27330 Vacant		919-774-8113

## Field Office Contact Information

# Norton District Inspection Responsibility

Currently we cover the State of Virginia and Parts of  
Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and  
North Carolina

# Norton District Mining Operations

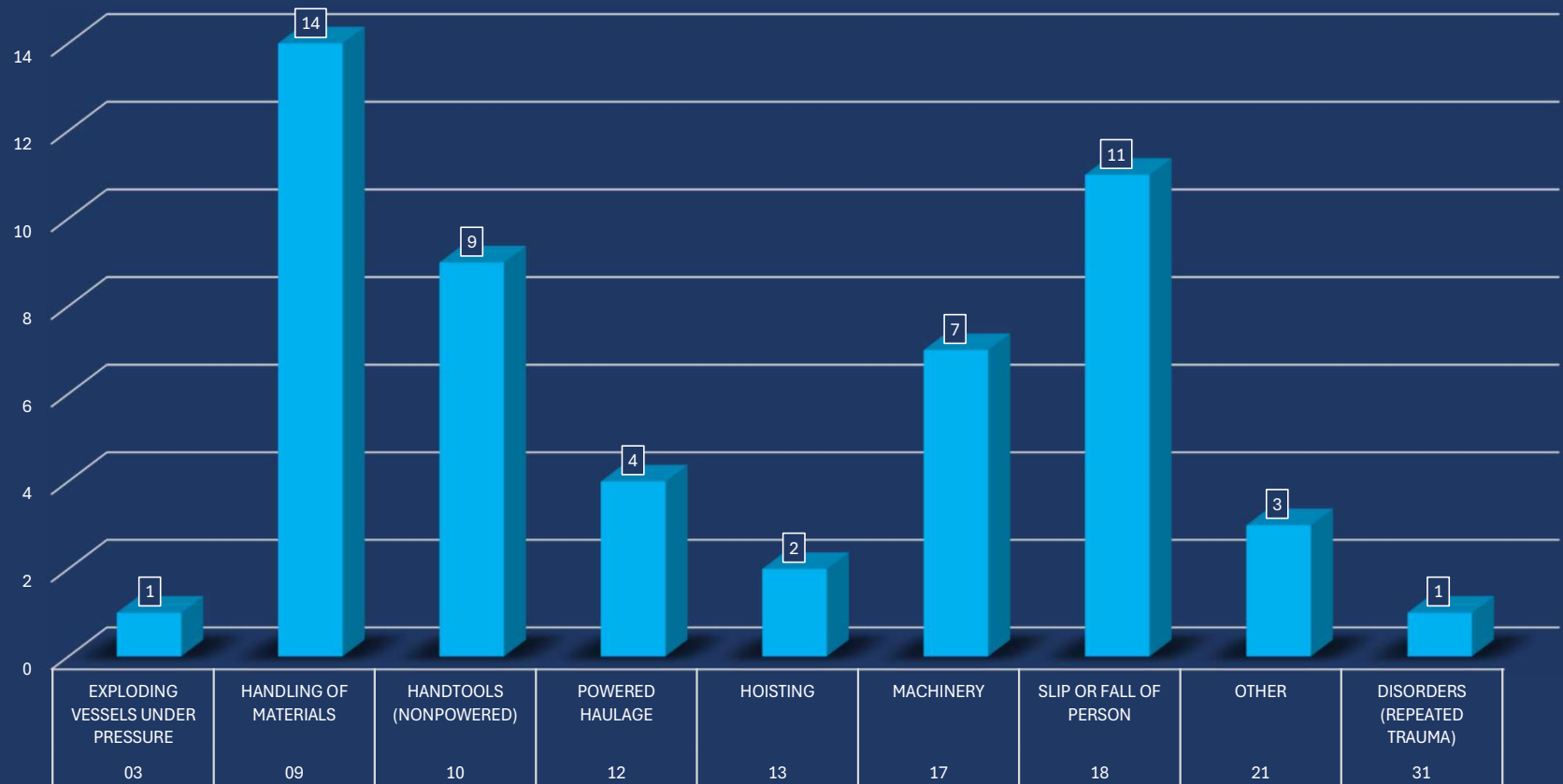
Underground Mines – 1 MNM Mine and 28 Coal Mines

Surface Mines – 333 MNM Mines and 56 Coal Mines

Facilities – 16 MNM Facilities and 41 Coal Facilities

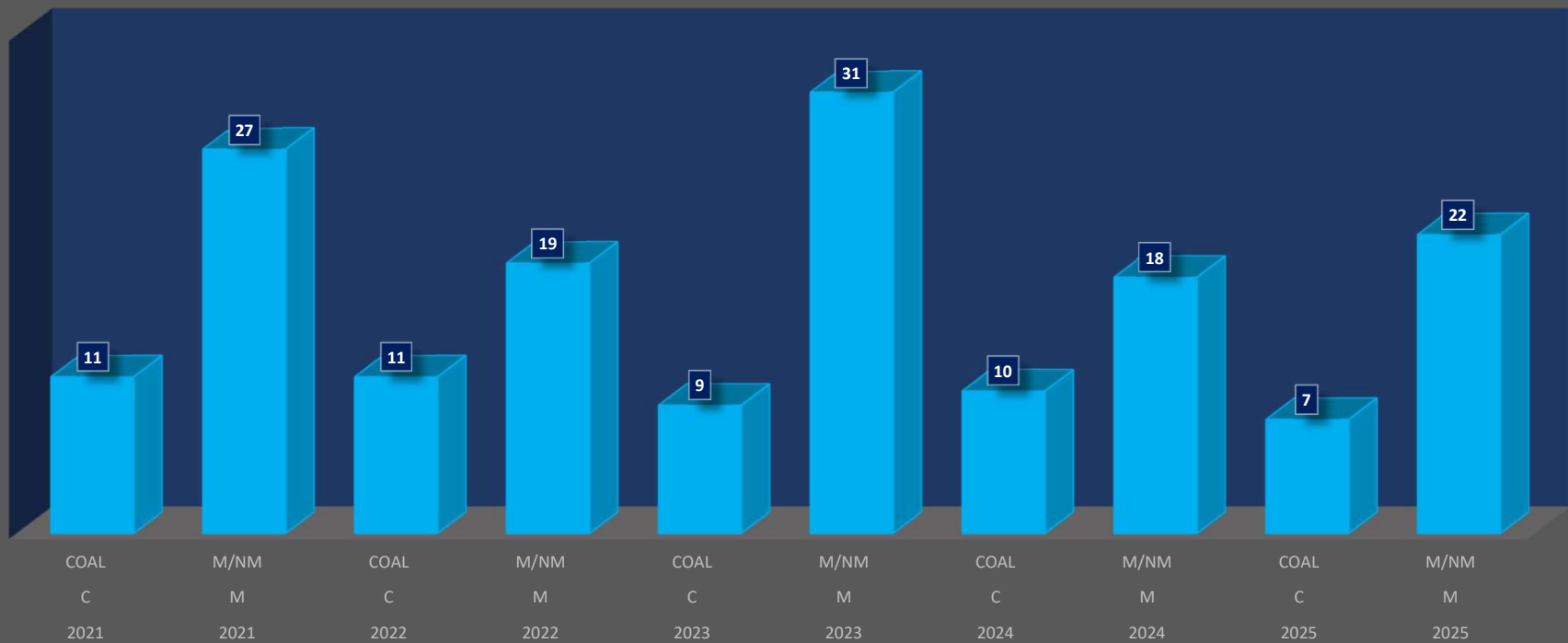
Total - 475

# ACCIDENTS IN NORTON DISTRICT VIRGINIA MNM MINES FY2025

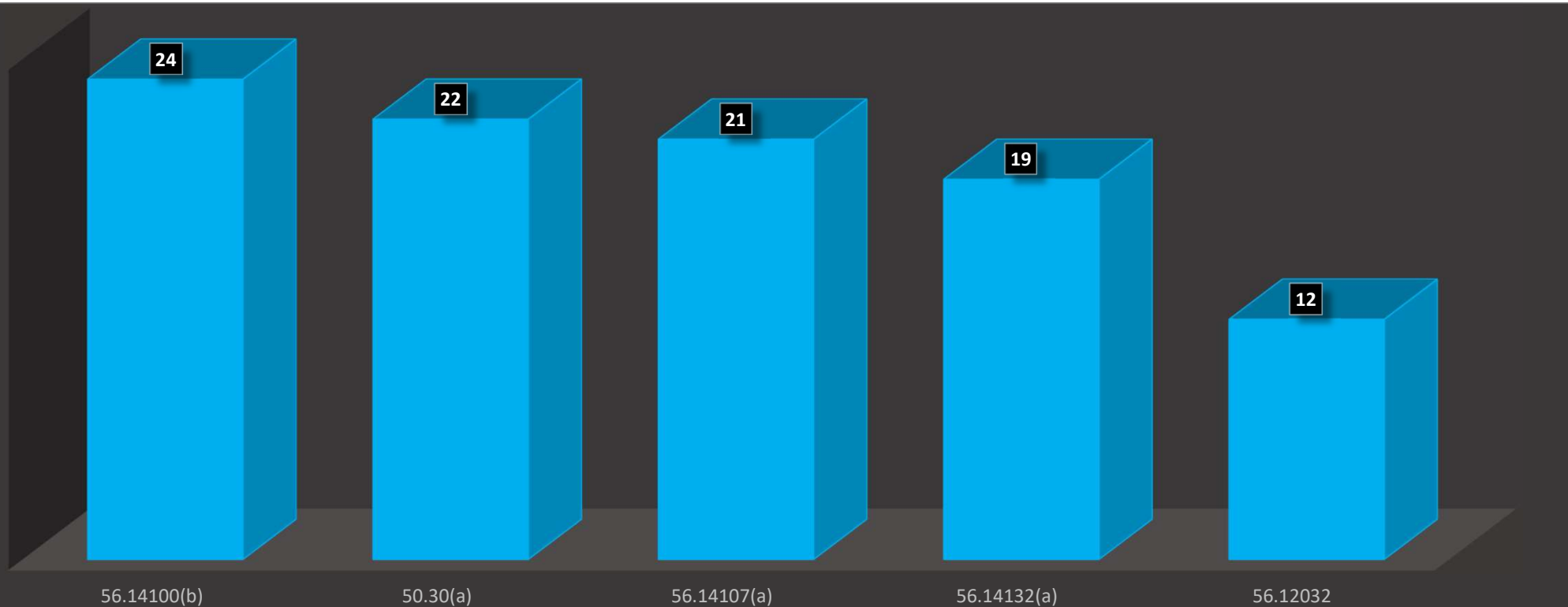


# Fatal Accidents CY 2021-CY 2025

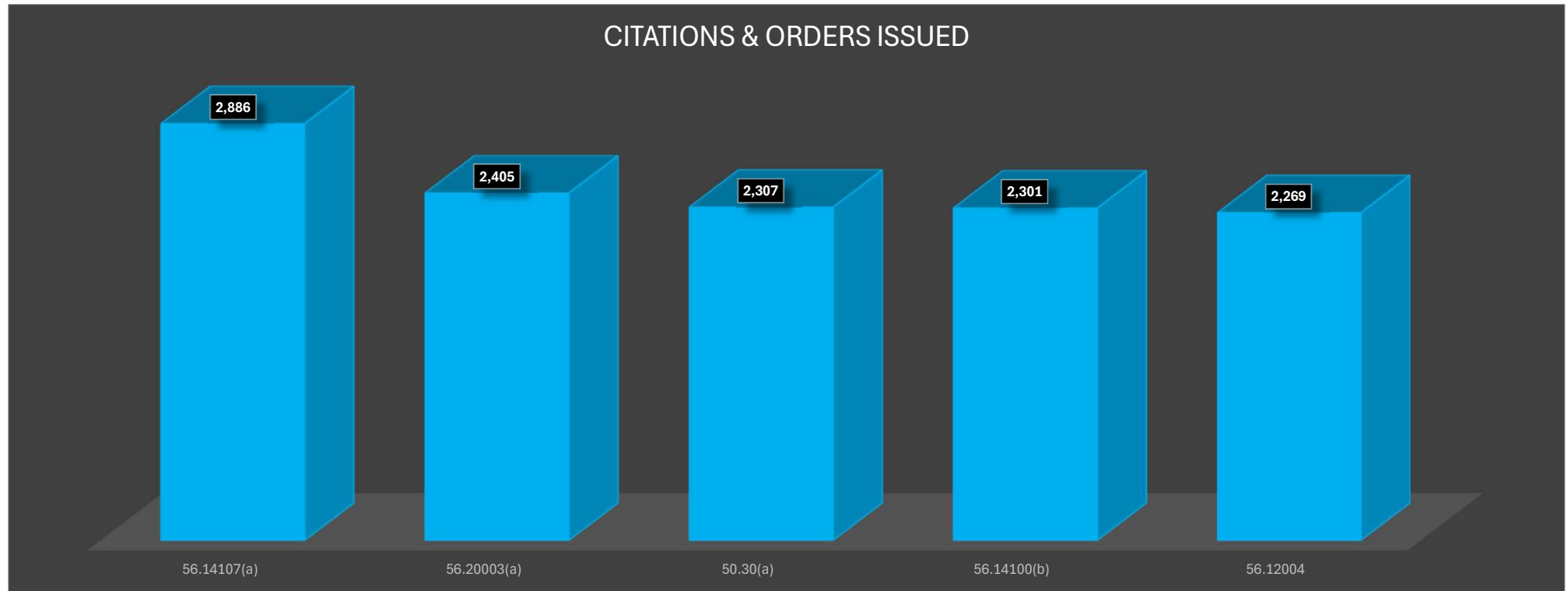
AS OF 12/1/2025



# Top Five 30 CFR Standards Cited at MNM Mines in Virginia in FY 2025



# Top 30 CFR Standards Cited at All MNM Mines in FY 2025



# 2025 Metal/Non-Metal Fatality Classifications

Metal and Non-Metal Fatalities as of 12/01/2025

Powered Haulage - 10

Machinery - 3

Electrical – 2

Fall/Slide Material -2

Fall of Roof or Back -2

Handling Material - 1

Slip/Fall of Person - 1

Exp. & Breaking Agents - 1

Total - 22



## Safety Alert

### Fall Protection



From 2022 to 2024, seven miners died after falling from heights. At the same time, MSHA issued 767 violations that cited fall protection standards. Of those violations, 228 were issued in conjunction with 107(a) imminent danger orders. So far in 2025, three miners were seriously injured by falling from heights.



*On March 13, 2025, a miner fell from the deck of a bulldozer.*



*On February 18, 2025, a contractor fell 14 feet through an opening in the second level of the shaker tower structure.*

### Best Practices

- Establish an effective fall prevention and protection program.
  - Provide and ensure proper use of fall protection where there is a danger of falling.
  - Ensure fall protection has suitable fall arrest connections and secure anchorage systems.
  - Train miners on fall prevention and protection. Prohibit work in unprotected areas.
- Provide and maintain safe access to all working places. Use personnel lifts or ladders to access elevated workplaces safely.
- Install adequate warning signals and barricades for openings above, below, or near travelways where miners or materials may fall.
- Ensure miners wear slip resistant footwear and use three points of contact when accessing mobile equipment and elevated surfaces.
- Conduct workplace examinations to identify and correct conditions that may adversely affect the safety or health of miners.
- Find additional information and resources on [OSHA's Fall Protection Webpage](#).



## Safety Alert

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Since 2015, 289 arc flash or electrical shock accidents have occurred. Fifteen of these accidents resulted in a fatality; an average of three miners every two years. Proper Lock Out – Tag Out (LOTO) procedures protect miners from the dangers of uncontrolled and unplanned releases of energy.



#### Best Practices

- Do not begin any electrical work until the circuit has been fully de-energized and a visual disconnect has been properly locked and tagged out. Always follow the “Lock Out, Tag Out, Try Out” procedure, and be aware that electrical circuits may be energized from multiple sources.
- Maintain a thorough understanding of the hazards associated with electricity and avoid touching any electrical component until you have verified that it is completely de-energized.
- Develop and adhere to a comprehensive and safe work plan or troubleshooting procedure to ensure the safety of all personnel involved.
- Always wear properly rated and well-maintained personal protective equipment (PPE) to safeguard against electrical shock, arc blast, and arc flash hazards, in accordance with the NFPA 70E Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace.






# Safety Alert



## Operating Mobile Equipment

Since the beginning of calendar year 2025, mine operators have reported over 150 accidents from the operation of mobile equipment, **including 13 of 20 fatal accidents**. Accidents can be prevented by examiners and mobile equipment operators looking for hazards above, below, in front, behind, and beside mobile equipment.

<u>ABOVE</u>	<u>BELOW</u>	<u>FRONT, BEHIND, BESIDE</u>
Loose and unconsolidated rock on highwalls, overhead powerlines, etc.	Unconsolidated ground, bench conditions, voids in material, etc.	Other equipment, unconsolidated ground, dump points, miners on foot, roadway hazards, berms, etc.
		

### Best Practices

- Perform adequate workplace and ground condition examinations on roadways, benches, unconsolidated ground, and dump sites. Correct hazardous conditions or relocate mobile equipment.
- Perform adequate pre-operational examinations on mobile equipment. If safety defects are found, remove mobile equipment from service until the equipment is repaired.
- Follow safe operational practices and parking procedures. Park equipment on level ground. Lower booms and buckets to the ground, and chock mobile equipment wheels.
- Always wear your seatbelt. Do not jump from moving equipment.
- Train mobile equipment operators to be aware of and understand the warnings in the manufacturer's manual and on mobile equipment decals.
- Ensure the written safety program for surface mobile equipment is updated to address mining conditions or practices that may adversely affect the health and safety of miners or other persons.



## HEALTH ALERT



### Housekeeping

**Good housekeeping practices can greatly reduce miners' exposures to respirable dust and silica.**

- Dusty work clothes are a significant source of secondary exposures
  - Regularly wash work clothes including jackets and sweatshirts
  - Install and use solutions such as cleaning stations and booths
  - Compressed air cannot be used to clean clothes!
- Dirt and dust can be carried into work areas on miners' boots
  - Install boot washing stations near production areas
  - Install boot brushes outside of equipment cabs, control rooms, and offices
- Cloth seats can collect and release dust every time they are used
  - Use leather and vinyl chairs in equipment, break rooms, and offices
  - Wipe down chairs regularly
- Wash equipment and floors on a regular basis
  - Start by slowly wetting the area with a wide spray nozzle, then move the wetted material with a more forceful nozzle
  - Use floor sweeping units and HEPA vacuums in high-traffic areas
  - Use a sweeping compound to reduce dust when dry sweeping



Photos by NIOSH



## Safety Alert

### Contract Truck Drivers

Since 2020, there have been 129 accidents involving contract truck drivers. These accidents have resulted in five fatalities and 99 lost time injuries.



### Best Practices

- **Maintain control while operating mobile equipment.** Never exceed a vehicle's design capabilities, operating ranges, load limits, and safety features.
- **Establish a site-specific traffic plan** to include traffic routes, speed limits, and access points. Train miners to follow all traffic controls.
- **Always wear seatbelts** when operating mobile equipment.
- **Never exit a moving vehicle.** Remain in the seat with your seat belt secured.
- **Conduct pre-operational examinations** to identify and repair defects that may affect the safe operation of equipment before placing equipment into service.
- **Maintain the equipment's braking systems.** Perform repairs and adjustments when necessary and follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Do not exceed the manufacturer's load limits.



## Fatality Alert

**MINE FATALITY** – On August 7, 2025, a contractor died after the front-end loader he was operating traveled over the edge of a highwall, falling approximately 70 feet.



### Best Practices

- Maintain control of self-propelled mobile equipment while it is in motion.
- Never attempt to enter or exit an out-of-control vehicle.
- Ensure miners are adequately task trained in the safe operation of assigned equipment.
- Perform regular pre-operational examinations of mobile equipment.
- Monitor work activities to ensure both miners and contractors follow safe work procedures.

This is the 18<sup>th</sup> fatality reported in 2025, and the seventh classified as "Powered Haulage."



## Fatality Alert

**MINE FATALITY** – On August 25, 2025, a miner died after the haul truck he was driving went over a berm along the haul road, over a highwall, and overturned into water in the pit.



### Best Practices

- Always operate mobile equipment at safe speeds. Consider the roadways, tracks, grades, clearances, visibility, traffic, and type of equipment being used.
- Follow the Surface Mobile Equipment safety program at your mine.
- Clearly mark hazards along roadways with signs and signals.
- Always wear a seatbelt while operating mobile equipment. Never attempt to exit or jump from an out-of-control vehicle.
- Maintain control of mobile equipment while it is descending, especially around tight turns.
- Ensure miners are adequately task trained in the safe operation of all equipment they operate.
- Perform pre-operational examinations of mobile equipment.

This is the 19<sup>th</sup> fatality reported in 2025, and the eighth classified as “Powered Haulage.”



## Fatality Alert

**MINE FATALITY** – A contract haul truck driver was injured while dumping a load of material at the top of a stockpile. The ground under the truck failed causing the truck to overturn onto its cab. The driver died later from his injuries.



### Best Practices

- Construct substantial berms, bumper blocks, safety hooks, or similar impeding devices at dumping locations where there is a hazard of overtravel or overturning.
- Conduct workplace and ground condition examinations before beginning work in an area.
- Always dump material from a stable and safe location. If examinations indicate the ground conditions are not reliable, dump loads at a safe distance and push the material over the edge using a bulldozer.
- Never load material from the toe of a stockpile that is below an active dump point. This typically leads to a slope that is unstable and too steep.
- Maintain stockpile slopes no steeper than the angle of repose.

This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> fatality reported in 2025, and the ninth classified as "Powered Haulage."

# FY 2025 Respirable Dust Samples at Virginia MNM Mines in Norton District

128 mines  
sampled

678 samples

Five  
overexposures

Questions or Comments  
Brian Dotson  
[dotson.brian@dol.gov](mailto:dotson.brian@dol.gov)