
 HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL MANUAL	13.7 Pit Traffic Safety			
	Revision Number: R0		Number of Pages: 3	
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PIT TRAFFIC SAFETY

Purpose

To ensure all employees understand vehicle and pedestrian traffic policies in the pits. Loading and hauling practices are also outlined.

Scope

Pit Traffic, Roadways, and Traveled Areas

- Roads must be regularly maintained to be free of washouts and major potholes.
- Roads must be maintained to minimize hazards from slipping or skidding of vehicles.
- Roadways must enable vehicles to pass each other safely.
- Roads must avoid steep grades wherever practical.

Illumination

Most pits have outdoor artificial lighting at the scale house and employee parking areas to provide illumination in the early morning or evening hours.

Processing operations use artificial lighting from the mobile equipment or use lighting from control towers/trailers.

If night-time operations are being conducted in other areas of the pit where lighting is unavailable, then arrangements must be made to use portable light stands as needed.

Traffic Management Regulations



An employer at a mine shall, in consultation with the joint health and safety committee or health and safety representative, develop and maintain a written traffic management program.

The program shall include measures and procedures to:

- a) prevent collisions, of motor vehicles, that may endanger the health and safety of workers by addressing hazards relating to reduced or impeded visibility of motor vehicle operators; and
- b) protect the health and safety of workers and pedestrians who may be endangered by the movement of a motor vehicle.
- c) A copy of the program shall be provided to the joint health and safety committee or health and safety representative and shall be made readily available at the mine site.
- d) The program shall be reviewed at least annually.
- e) The Traffic Management Program, including the Risk Assessment Checklist, Traffic Plan and Site Map will be posted in the scale house at each pit location.

Pit Traffic Safety

- All vehicles must adhere to the posted speed limits and warning signs.
- Vertical drops, road edges, cliffs or accesses to deep water must be protected by berms of half the height of the largest tires in operation in the pit. This includes tipping areas and fill dumps.
- Trees and other vegetation or materials within 2 meters of the rim of a surface mine and likely to endanger a person, must be removed.

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- Right of way is given to loaded vehicles and larger equipment when working or traveling in a pit. This is because of equipment blind spots and loaded vehicles require greater distances to stop than unloaded vehicles.
- Dust control measures shall be taken on roadways as necessary.

Pedestrians, Visitors, and the General Public

- Customers in small vehicles or those unfamiliar with the pit will be directed to marked “safe zones” to wait to be loaded or escorted by the loader operator.
- The above customers must remain inside their vehicles unless directed by the loader operator. The operator must verbally direct customers where to stand when loading a vehicle or trailer. If the customer ignores the request, the operator must cease loading and redirect the customer before commencing again.
- Cars and small trucks must never be allowed to park alongside a stockpile that is not in natural repose.
- No customers are allowed to load themselves unless they are within a safe zone.
- All customers must be given a weigh ticket, so they are aware of their gross weight.

Dump Truck Operation

Dump trucks and dump trailers can and have tipped over when their boxes were lifted. The result can be serious injury or death to the driver and/or nearby workers. Serious vehicle and property damage can also occur.

Factors that can cause the truck or box to tip over:

- slightly sloping or uneven ground level.
- material that gets stuck in the box causing an imbalance.
- large portion of loads caught in tailgates.
- soft ground under tires.
- mechanical defects.

Procedures

Operating:

- Ensure a properly documented pre-operational vehicle inspection has been completed.
- Check in with the scale attendant or loader operator when first arriving at the pit.
- Seat belts must be worn when operating a vehicle.
- Obey all Highway Traffic Act regulations. Obey all warning / traffic signs.
- Follow all proper haul routes.
- Windshields, windows, and mirrors must be kept clean to ensure good visibility.
- Use 3-point contact when entering or exiting the vehicle.
- Report all incidents or hazards to the loader operator or scale attendant.

Loading:

- The location of the driver must always be known by the operator. Stay inside the truck cab while being loaded.



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- Watch the load being loaded with your mirrors; notify the operator right away if you see any issues especially on the blind side.
- Communicate with the operator when the loading is complete.
- Ensure your weight is within allowable limits before leaving the pit.
- Truck drivers must ensure their load is secured (tailgate locked and no loose material to spill onto road) and tarped before leaving pit.

Unloading:

- When material is dumped from a vehicle, the dump point shall include features (i.e. berms) to prevent the vehicle from going over the bank or edge.
- When dumping on top of a fill dump or stockpile, ensure the unloaded material will not become a hazard for any workers, vehicles that may be located at the bottom of the slope.
- When reversing, truck drivers must be mindful of any pedestrians or other traffic. Use a signaler if necessary.
- Drivers must always visually inspect the area above them for overhead wires or other hazards.
- Trucks must be level enough to dump safely. While raising the box, maintain a good centre of gravity. If you suspect the box is off centre, immediately lower the box and re-position the truck.
- Stay in the cab during dumping and keep your seatbelt on. You're less likely to be injured in a rollover. If the truck starts to tip **DON'T TRY TO JUMP OUT.**
- Always try to lower the box as soon as the load has been dumped. This lowers the center of gravity.
- Check the box periodically to ensure all loads are emptying properly. Clean out as needed. Use an excavator to clean out if needed.
- Check box when dumping sticky material like clay. It may stick to one side of the raised box, or it may stick in the upper portion, creating a top-heavy or unbalanced load.
- Be aware of frozen loads that may become stuck in the box.
- Report all mechanical issues. Stability can be affected by poor suspension, uneven tire pressure, and worn or inadequate lifting systems.
- Ensure that the tailgate locks work properly.
- Ground workers must always wear high-visibility clothing or safety vests. Make eye contact with the driver when approaching.
- Never stand, work, or use machinery beside a truck or trailer when it is dumping. Be visible and stay out of the danger zone.

Requirements

- Mining Regs. 854, Sections 18, 90-92, 105.1, 116, 118