

New Safety Training Approaches in the Salt Industry

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ABSTRACT

When the United States government enacted the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, the salt industry was directed toward providing its work force with training programs covering specific topics. Although mine trainers are aware of the types of courses they are required to deliver, there have been differences among mines in what has been included in each course and methods of instruction.

Joint efforts from government and industry are now moving toward more uniformity along three different tracks. First, course guides will soon be available through the Mine Safety and Health Administration consisting of plans and lessons for each of the required courses. These materials include training objectives for both instructor and employee, activities that demonstrate safety points, evaluation techniques, diverse films and slide programs, and extensively detailed outlines supporting an organized and thorough lecture, including visual illustrations

and self-check guides. A second approach moves away from current classroom training practices that primarily seek to comply with mandated training hours and toward having employees demonstrate their skills and knowledge through exercises in the mine. Under sponsorship of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, Bendix is seeking to define satisfactory levels of performance on these criteria. The third approach seeks to support trainers in the use of new materials for safety talks and refresher training. One such resource is a series of motivational fictionalized stories based on accident reports of mine fatalities, supplemented with foremen-crew discussion questions and a safety engineer's critique.

Training requires an ongoing commitment on the part of management to assure the best prepared work force possible, and these three approaches represent several of the programs supporting these goals.

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