



HAZARD ALERT DROWNINGS

Updated

Revised Statistics as of March 31, 1999

In the past thirty-five months, 16 miners have drowned while performing work at metal and nonmetal properties. This represents 64% of all drownings occurring in the metal and nonmetal industries between 1990 and March 31, 1999.

Twelve of the 25 drownings since 1990 occurred when mobile equipment being operated by the victims entered the water. Of the drownings involving boats and dredges during this period, only one person was wearing a life jacket

Cause of Accident	Drownings at Metal and Nonmetal Mines ----1/1/1990 to 3/31/1999			Total
	Strip/Quarry	Type of Operation		
		Dredge	Mill	
Equipment falling into water	11	1	0	12
Victim falling into water	2	9	1	12
Swimming to work boat	0	1	0	1
Total	13	11	1	25

The risk to miners who work around water can be minimized by:

- ensuring that workers on dredges and barges wear life jackets
- providing safe access to barges and dredges
- ensuring that boats and other equipment are properly maintained and used within design capacity
- constructing berms or barriers along bodies of water
- not working alone unless the worker can be seen or heard by others.

**U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
J. Davitt McAteer, Assistant Secretary**