Kentucky DMS – Safety Alert No.3 (Powered Haulage)

On October 2, 2020 at 2:55 a.m. A surface mine foreman, with 43 years of mining experience, was driving a ¾ ton pickup, traveling towards the pit area. In the process he was attempting to pass a 240 ton rock truck, on the left side of the intersection, the operator of the rock truck was not aware of the foreman’s intentions to pass. The pickup was struck and pushed for 225 feet before someone communicated to the operator of the rock truck to STOP! There were no injuries resulting from this incident.

Photos of the Incident scene

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Smaller type vehicles, such as passenger vehicles, approaching large mobile equipment, should not proceed to pass until both operators have both communicated and verified the direction and planned movements.
2. Minimize situations where smaller vehicles need to approach large haul trucks. Arrange for haul truck drivers to have supplies available rather than delivered to the truck.
3. Large vehicles shall maintain the right of way in all areas of the mine.
4. Passenger vehicles on mine property should be equipped with both a strobe light and a visible flag mounted on the vehicle. Strobe lights must be visible from all sides and in operation while located in active mining areas.