

## Creation of MSATS

The Nevada Division of Mine Inspection, presently known as the Mine Safety and Training Section, was created by the Nevada State Legislature in 1909 to ensure the safe and healthful working conditions for all Nevada miners by setting and enforcing standards and providing training, education and assistance.

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## Primary Goal

- While the mining industry is important to the economy in Nevada, the health and safety of its' employees are of primary importance to the Mine Safety and Training Section. Our primary goal is to reduce the frequency and severity of on-the-job injuries, and the occurrence of occupational disease

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## How do we accomplish this goal?

- Conducting compliance enforcement inspections
- Providing extensive training programs
- Providing consultations and technical assistance

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## Compliance Enforcement

The Mine Safety and Training Section conducts compliance enforcement inspections for surface and underground mining operations, sand and gravel operations and mineral exploration drilling.

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## Training

Mine safety courses provided include, but are not limited to, new inexperienced miner training surface and underground (to include first-aid and CPR), annual refresher training, instructor training and 40+ specialty classes – Rope rescue, Cyanide training, Abandoned mines, Explosives, ergonomics etc.

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## Consultation and Technical Assistance

Consultation and technical assistance is provided by written request. Examples of technical assistance include: electrical ground resistance testing, u/g diesel permits, analysis for dust and metal air samples, respirator fit-testing, inspection of boilers and pressure vessels, review of operation procedures, assistance in developing safety and health programs.

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## Mandated Federal Regulations

30 Code of Federal Regulations

- Part 48 – Training of Miners
- Part 49 – Mine Rescue Teams
- Part 56 – S&H standards of surface mines
- Part 57 – S&H standards of u/g mines
- Part 62 – Occupational Noise

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## Federal Mine Act

Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 – Public Law 91-173 amended 95-164

Points of interest;

- Section 503a – Assistance to States
- Section 506a – Effects on State Laws

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## NRS 512

Mine Safety and Training Section governed by Part 1, Title 46, Chapter 512, NRS as amended 2001.

This standard applies to open pit and underground metal and non-metal mines, sand, gravel and crushed stone operations.

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## NRS 512.190

Action by Administrator when inspection reveals dangerous conditions or violations;

- Order
- Notice

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## Order

Issued when an imminent danger exists in the mine.

- Requires the operator to cause all persons to be withdrawn immediately from and prohibited from entering the area until the danger no longer exists.

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## Order - Continued

Prohibits equipment, machinery or apparatus from use or operation until the imminent danger no longer exists.

- \* NRS 512.195(3) – If an order is issued, the Administrator shall notify the Mine Safety and Health Administration that an order has been issued.

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### NRS 512.270

An operator who;

- Violates, fails or refuses to comply with H&S standards
- Interferes, hinders or delays
- Refuses admission of inspectors
- Refuses to permit to inspect/investigate an accident
- Refuses to furnish information or reports

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### NRS 512.270 Continued

- Knowingly makes a false statement or representation
- Refuses to permit an inspection or investigation of equipment or tools
- Fails to maintain required information or reports
- Violates, fails or refuses to comply with an Order

*\* is guilty of a gross misdemeanor!*

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### NRS 193.140

Punishment of a gross misdemeanor –

- Shall be punished by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year
- Or, by a fine of not more than \$2000
- Or, Both

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## Notice

When a violation does not create an imminent danger, a Notice is issued to the operator allowing a reasonable time for the abatement of the violation.

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## Conditions Corrected

This method is used for minor safety violations that are corrected on-the-spot, before the Mine Inspector leaves the mine.

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## FY 11 to Present

- Issued 23 Orders – Additional MSHA fine
- Issued 215 Notices
- Issued 636 Conditions Corrected
- Provided 4867 Technical Assistance / Consultation services

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## Calendar Year 2010

- \* 1368 Mining Operations
- 21,314 Miners
  
- MSATS Employees 14 representatives in four locations;
- Carson City
- Winnemucca
- Elko
- Henderson

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## Proposed Amendment of MSATS Regulations

- Ladders and Ladderways
- Mercury
- Ground Support
- Airborne Contaminants – To include Respirable Silica

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## NAC 512.158 Ladders and Ladderways

- To provide for use and construction of vertical shafts without ladderways
- Provide secondary or emergency personnel hoisting device with a power supply that is independent from the primary power source.
- Provide a hoisting device in a separate shaft .
- Connect a drift or decline to the surface where personnel hoists are not required

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### NAC 512.178 Mercury Treatment Plants

- Include refineries or other areas where the health and safety of workers may be at risk in handling and/or exposures to Mercury.
- Adjust the acceptable limit of Mercury in workers urine samples. (ACGIH)
- Require MSHA/NIOSH approved respiratory protection as needed

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### 57.3360 Ground Support

- Written ground support plan – engineering/rock mechanic input
- Provide training to each worker performing excavation of u/g mine
- Provide that damaged ground support materials are repaired or replaced before work or travel is permitted

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### 56/57.5001 Airborne Contaminants

- Modify 8 hour time weighted average to Crystalline Silica airborne exposure limit (NIOSH/ACGIH)

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## Incorporate Federal Regulations

- 29 CFR 1910 Section 1000 Table Z-1  
Air Contaminants
- 29 CFR 1910 Section 134  
Respiratory Protection

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## Federal Regulations Continued

- 30 CFR Part 47 – Hazard  
Communication Parts 56/57 Surface  
and Underground
- 30 CFR Part 62 – Occupational Noise

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