

## **SIC/Industry**

## **2001 Indemnity Claims**

### **MINING**

10 Metal Mining	19
12 Coal Mining	13
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	296
14 Nonmetallic Minerals, Exc. Fuels	28

### **Oil and Gas Extraction**

#### **Analysis**

*This major industry group includes businesses primarily engaged in the following: producing crude petroleum and natural gas; extracting oil from oil sands and oil shale; producing natural gasoline and cycle condensate; and producing gas and hydrocarbon liquids from coal at the mine site. Types of activities included are exploration, drilling, oil and gas well operation and maintenance, the operation of natural gasoline and cycle plants and the gasification, liquefaction and pyrolysis of coal at the mine site. Oil and gas field services are included in this group.*

*From 1992-2001, the mining industry experienced the highest number of compensable fatalities in New Mexico with 41 or 23% of the total.*

*In 2001, 75 claims resulted from workers being struck by or against objects. Falls from elevation and falls on the same level resulted in 53 claims. There were 52 claims involving workers who were caught in, under or between (machines/objects). Back injuries from overexertion, lifting objects resulted in 32 claims. Other significant claims activity for workers in this industry were motor vehicle accidents (17), bodily reaction (17), overexertion/wielding (15) and overexertion/pulling or pushing objects (15). Parts of body most involved were fingers (54), the back (43), multiple body parts [associated with falls and motor vehicle accidents] (32), knees (25), ankles and feet with 19 each, shoulders (18), trunk with 17 and hands with 15. Truck Drivers were number two on the List of Occupations with the Twenty Highest Newly Reported Indemnity Claims in New Mexico for 2001 with 278 claims. Laborers, except Construction were*

*fourth with 226 claims. Mining Occupations were fifteenth with 74 claims. This industry now employs more young workers/new employees than it had in the past. These workers are at risk and require attention. Attention is also needed to overcome safety problems presented by multiple languages used by workers in this industry.*

*This checklist is intended to enhance knowledge and assist in preventing injuries within this industry. It is not intended to be comprehensive in any way. Please use the information to coordinate efforts and direct attention to your specific areas of concern.*

*We recommend that owners/operators and Toolpushers take advantage of the many excellent sources of information that are available in the industry as an integral part of this review. Start with the following:*

*New Mexico Oil and Gas  
Association*

*<http://www.nmoga.org/>*

*Select any of the useful links that the association has listed. Include:*

*International Association of  
Drilling Contractors (IADC)*

*<http://www.iadc.org/>*

*International Association of  
Oil and Gas Producers*

*<http://www.globaldrillingsafety.org/>*

*Society of Petroleum Engineers*

*<http://www.spe.org/>*

*New Mexico Tech (GO-TECH)*

*<http://www.octane.nmt.edu/>*

*American Association of  
Petroleum Geologists*

*<http://www.aapg.org/>*

## **13/Oil and Gas Extraction**

**296 Claims**

**Struck by or Against Objects** are types of indemnity Claims which are the second leading cause of death at work in New Mexico. The industry had 75 of these claims in 2001 from moving, stationary, falling/flying objects and striking against objects. Many of these accidents can be prevented by good training and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

**YES / NO / N/A**

*Protective equipment has been issued and is used  
By trained employees as needed. Examples Include  
The following:*

- Hard hats*
- Protective glasses*
- Face shields*
- Respirators*
- Self-contained breathing equipment*
- Gas/Hydrogen Sulfide monitors*
- Tight-fitting gloves*
- Steel-toed work shoes or boots*
- Slip-resistant footwear*
- Personal fall arrest systems*
- Protective clothing, gloves and aprons*
- Fall restraint systems*
- Emergency escape line and slide*
- Spare safety belt available*
- First-aid kits*
- Fire extinguishers*
- Hearing protection*
- Eye wash facility is accessible*
- Communications capabilities*

*Other equipment that may be required  
To perform specific tasks*

## ***Understanding Safety Procedures***

*Workers need to understand and respond to  
Safety language – signs, rules, verbal and non-verbal  
Signals and emergency actions  
Employees know that it is not OK to be hurt at work  
Training should include identification of all essential  
Tools and equipment that the employee needs for  
The job – symbols help convey meaning  
Understanding, not language, is most important  
The Internet can be used as a training resource for  
Safety information in many languages*

## ***Fall Protection***

**YES / NO / N/A**

*At elevations above six feet, employees are  
Protected by guardrails, safety net systems  
Or personal fall arrest systems  
Employees use appropriate footwear for the  
Walking/working surface  
All ladders, locking stepladders and stools are  
Checked for condition prior to use  
Defective equipment is disposed of  
Trained employees use the equipment properly  
Special precautions are used during wet or icy  
Conditions  
Floor holes are covered or guarded*

## ***Ladders***

*Are in good condition and can be properly extended  
And secured  
Portable ladders extend at least 3 feet above  
Roofs or platforms  
Workers are trained by a competent person  
Damaged ladders are removed from the job site  
Contact with electrical lines is avoided*

## **Fall Prevention**

**YES / NO / N/A**

*Floor openings are covered or guarded  
Floors are free of grease  
Stairs and walkways are clear and debris removed  
Lighting is adequate  
Floors are kept clean and dry  
Spills are cleaned up immediately  
Employee footwear is adequate for the job  
Stair step treads are non-skid  
Stairs are level, secured and clear  
All stairs have handrails on both sides  
Tripping hazards are identified, highlighted  
And controlled or eliminated  
Housekeeping is monitored for effectiveness*

*There were 52 claims in which employees were  
**Caught in, Under or Between** machines or objects.  
Typically, these involve drill pipes, spinning chains,  
Tongs, cranking motors, chains, sprockets and gears.*

**Bodily Reaction** is a type of indemnity claim which  
*Refers to body motions that cause physical  
Stress or strain. An example is a shoulder strain  
Injury resulting from an overextended reach. The  
Industry had 17 of these claims in 2001.*

*Situational awareness and knowledge of our  
Individual limitations are the key elements in  
Preventing these injuries*

## **Back Injury Prevention**

*Employees are made aware of the dangers of lifting  
Employees ask for help from others to lift heavy  
Objects  
Through training, employees know how to lift  
Management has minimized lifting tasks by providing  
Lifting equipment and mechanical devices  
Repetitive motion injuries are prevented by exercise*

*New employees are given special attention and  
Supervision to ensure that lifting is done properly  
If used, back support belts are worn properly and  
Are used only for lifting*

### **Hazardous Materials**

**YES / NO / N/A**

*Chemicals are stored properly  
Chemical containers are clearly labeled  
Chemical spill control supplies are readily  
Available  
The list of all chemicals is available  
Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are  
Accessible to employees who need them  
Trained employees can understand MSDS  
Personal protective equipment is used*

### **Electrical**

*All electrical equipment is properly grounded  
All power tools are approved and double insulated  
Ground fault circuit interrupters are in use  
Overhead power lines are marked and avoided  
Lockout/tag out procedures are used by employees  
And service/repair personnel*

### **Rig, Yard and Shop Areas**

*Tools are in good condition  
All electrical equipment is grounded  
All machine guards are in place  
Fire extinguishers are accessible  
Flammables are properly contained  
First aid kits and personal protective equipment (PPE)  
Are accessible  
Spray painting booth has explosion-  
Proof fixtures and is well ventilated  
Smoking is prohibited*

## **Fire Safety**

**YES / NO / N/A**

*Fire extinguishers are adequate and accessible  
Workers know how to use the extinguishers  
Flammable materials are stored separately and  
Properly using approved containers or cabinets  
No smoking signs are posted as necessary  
911 or fire emergency numbers are posted  
Communications capability is adequate*

## **Emergency Preparation**

*The location of the nearest healthcare facility is  
Known to all  
Transportation capability is adequate  
First aid kits are adequate, accessible and are  
Refilled as necessary  
At least one worker per shift has been trained  
In first aid and CPR  
Heat stress symptoms are known to all  
911 or emergency numbers are posted  
Communications capability is adequate*

## **Power and Hand Tools**

*Only the proper tools are used for the job  
Guards and safety devices are operable and in place  
Pinch and shear points are guarded  
Employees are trained and knowledgeable  
All power tools are grounded  
No tool is stored in an overhead location  
All tools are inspected frequently and are well  
Maintained  
Employees use appropriate PPE for the job*

## **Material Storage and Handling**

**YES / NO / N/A**

*Materials are properly stacked, blocked and secure  
Fire extinguishers are adequate and accessible  
Flammable liquids are stored in approved containers  
Workers handle loads properly and seek help as needed  
Security, including fencing and lighting, is adequate*

## **Welding and Cutting**

*Operators are trained and well qualified  
Personal protective equipment is in use  
Cylinders are secured  
Fire extinguishers are accessible  
All fittings are free of oil and grease  
Specified gauge settings are maintained  
All hoses and cords are well maintained  
Smoking is prohibited*

## **Compressed Gases**

*Storage areas are well ventilated, fireproof and dry  
Cylinders are clearly labeled  
Cylinders (both full and empty) are secured and  
Separated by type  
The valve protection cap is not removed until  
The cylinder is secure and ready for use  
Empty cylinders are never stored with or near  
Full ones  
Flammable and nonflammable gases are stored  
Separately and properly  
Smoking is prohibited  
Employees are trained and knowledgeable*

## **Cranes**

**YES / NO / N/A**

*The rated load capacities are clearly visible to the Operator and are easily understood*

*Signals used are easily understood*

*A competent person inspects the equipment before Each use, each day*

*Any damaged part is taken out of service and repaired*

*All areas within the swing radius are barricaded to Prevent injury*

*Proper clearance distances from electrical lines Are maintained*

*A thorough monthly and annual inspection is Conducted and documented*

*[The IADC publishes an excellent Monthly Crane Inspection Checklist]*

## **Rig Site Housekeeping and Sanitation**

*Debris and trash removal is adequate*

*Floor openings are covered or guarded*

*Stairs and walkways are clear*

*Drinking water has been provided*

*Toilet and washing facilities are adequate*

*Lighting and ventilation are adequate*

*Phones for emergency use are accessible*

## **Motor Vehicle Accident Prevention**

***Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death at work in New Mexico. Motor vehicle accidents tend to result in more serious injuries than other types of accidents – almost 30 percent of all compensable fatalities are of this type.***

### **Causes**

*Failure to wear seat belts  
Lack of attention while driving  
Excessive speed  
Violations of state law and company policy  
Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs  
Failure to drive with regard to road conditions*

### **Ideas for Employers**

*Develop a company policy that covers driving while at work.  
Consider including the following:  
The use of seat belts in company vehicles is mandatory  
Only specifically authorized employees with valid and company  
Verified licenses may operate company vehicles or  
Personally owned vehicles on company business  
Prohibit alcohol and drug use in company vehicles  
Offer Defensive Driving courses to employees  
Develop a vehicle safety inspection and maintenance program  
Establish a safety awards program to recognize good drivers*

### **Ideas for Employees**

*Wear seat belts and ensure your passengers do the same  
Never drink and drive or take medications that make you drowsy  
Obey all traffic laws and follow your company's policies  
Inspect your vehicle before driving and report defects to a  
Supervisor-check mirrors and gas level before leaving  
Do not drive the vehicle if safety problems are not corrected  
Be alert to changing road conditions and drive defensively*

## **Young Workers/New Employees**

*In 2001, workers in their first year of employment filed a large share of the indemnity claims with 46.9 percent of the total in New Mexico. Each year this statistic hovers around 50 percent. What follows is information specifically designed to address the needs of these workers.*

## **Five Steps For A Safer Workplace**

### **Start your workers out right**

- *Welcome them*
- *Orient them*
- *Introduce them*
- *Train them*
- *Check them out on tools and equipment*
- *Observe and assist them*

### **Account for all accidents**

- *Keep records of NOAs, E-1s, E-6s and OSHA logs*
- *Cost out the loss to the organization*
- *Assist supervisors with accountability*
- *Evaluate safety performance*

### **Managers plan safety**

- *Plan safety into each job*
- *Use job planning/hazard analysis tools*
- *Make sure the workers know what to do*

### **Hold safety meetings**

- *Choose specific topics (fall prevention)*
- *Use examples (Jane hurt her back when...)*
- *Keep it brief*

### **Reinforce safety performance/recognize good work**

## **Administration**

**YES / NO / N/A**

### *The Workers' Compensation Act Poster*

*Is available, has been filled in with the name  
Of the insurance company/claims representative  
As required and the Notice of Accident Forms  
Accompany the poster*

### *The organization's Annual Safety Inspection*

*Has been done and is documented  
OSHA posters and logs are available  
Department of Labor information is available*

## **Organization Information**

### **Inspector Information and Date**

### **Other Internet Resources**

*New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (OSHA)*  
<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/ohsb>

*American Society of Safety Engineers, NM Chapter*  
<http://www.asse.org/>

*National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health*  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>

*Safety in Spanish – Operation Safe Site*  
<http://www.opsafesite.com/spanish/>

*Association of Energy Service Companies*  
<http://www.aesc.net/>

