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# S a f e t y

## Mining... GREAT for Saskatchewan

### SAFETY CULTURE AND RECORD

- Safety is first and foremost for all members of the Association and member companies invest their time and effort in developing and maintaining a positive safety culture at all their operations.
- Mining is one of the safest industries in the province, averaging less than one Lost Time Accident (LTA) for every 200,000 hours or 100 years worked, for the past 19 years. Our industry is continuously striving to improve upon its safety record.
- The Saskatchewan mining industry is a safe industry – WCB statistics illustrate that the mining sector has a lower time lost injury rate than the provincial average, including lower than either the health or government worker sectors; a result of continuing efforts to reduce accidents through improved training and safe workplace practices. This is reflected in the higher 2014 “all industry rate code” payroll premiums of \$1.51 compared to \$0.67 for open pit, \$1.10 for underground softrock and \$1.23 for underground hardrock mine operations. Similarly, time loss claims for “all classes” are higher, at 2.5% compared to 1.27% for open pit, 1.05% for underground, 0.80% for underground potash and 0.68% for solution mines.
- There are over 130 Safety professionals employed by the mining companies in Saskatchewan and an additional 1000 emergency responders trained at the mine sites.
- Saskatchewan mines have been frequent winners of the National J. T. Ryan Safety Awards sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Mining Metallurgy and Petroleum. Cameco’s McArthur River mine was awarded the CIM’s prestigious John T. Ryan National Safety Trophy for the best safety performance in the metal mine category in 2013. Last year, the McArthur River mine recorded zero reportable injuries for 860,818 working hours. The McArthur River mine also

received this award in 2009 and 2000. In 2006 the Mosaic Esterhazy K1 Mine won the John T. Ryan National Award in the Select Mine category.

- Saskatchewan’s mining industry is a strong supporter of the Saskatchewan Safety Council’s “SAFE SASKATCHEWAN” initiative, and the SMA works with other like-minded Safety Organizations to promote the culture of safety at the workplace, and at home.

### REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

- The Mine Safety Unit, Occupational Health and Safety Branch of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour, inspects all mines in the province on a regular basis. The mining industry is the only industry that has a dedicated government safety unit.
- Saskatchewan mine supervisors are required to hold Department of Labour certification of their knowledge of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations, certification in First Aid, and certification in Supervisory Duties in an Emergency. No other industry in Saskatchewan has these safety requirements.
- Active Occupational Health and Safety Committees are an important part of Saskatchewan mines’ efforts to reduce accidents in the workplace.

### WORKPLACE TRAINING

- New workers have between 32 and 40 hours of initial safety orientation training which is followed by mentoring time with trainers until they achieve a level of proficiency in their work area.



- Safety training at Saskatchewan mine sites is continuous with workers initially having an extensive safety training orientation that is reinforced by ongoing safety programs. All crews have regular safety briefings to ensure that safety is the first criteria considered before any task is undertaken.

## SMA SAFETY FRAMEWORK

- Saskatchewan mining companies have over 130 safety professionals at the mine sites, and upwards of 1000 trained emergency response people.
- SMA Safety Committee is comprised of dedicated Safety Professionals from all mine site operations. They meet monthly to share information pertaining to their sites to enhance health and safety at mining operations.
- A recent initiative of the Safety Committee is the organization of the Industrial Safety Supervisor Course – a 3-day course dedicated to improving safety and the management of safety, for supervisors at the mine sites. To date over 1000 supervisors have completed the course.
- In May 2014, the SMA Safety Committee will host the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Response/Mine Rescue Skills Competition, featuring 17 competing teams (11 underground and 6 surface), and over 100 direct competitors.

## SUMMARY

The Saskatchewan mining industry is a safe, strongly regulated industry, where employees are well compensated for their work. The Saskatchewan mining industry believes one accident is too many and our companies continually strive toward the elimination of all injuries.

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## EXPLORATION SAFETY

- SMA Exploration companies are also proactive about ensuring safety in their work environment.
- The Exploration Safety Sub-Committee continues to meet regularly to identify safety issues and ways to improve safety performance.