**Structural Integrity – MSHA Alert and Best Practices**

Recently, MSHA issued a “Preventing Structural Failure Alert”. Key information from MSHA:

* Since 2010, an average of one metal and nonmetal miner has died each year in accidents attributable to structural failure.
* Serious injuries, close calls, and property damage accidents, which easily could have resulted in fatalities, occur far too regularly for the mining industry not to pay closer attention to structural integrity.
* Buckled beams and columns triggering major bin or roof collapses are the most commonly thought of structural failures, but, serious structural accidents are just as often caused by failure of undersized, worn, cracked, corroded or otherwise damaged fasteners, welds and small structural members.
* For additional Best Practices, click on following link: [Preventing Structural Failure Alert](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTYxMTEwLjY2MTY1MTMxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE2MTExMC42NjE2NTEzMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MzYyODUzJmVtYWlsaWQ9Y3JlbGx5LmR1c3RhbkBkb2wuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1jcmVsbHkuZHVzdGFuQGRvbC5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUlkPSYmJg==&&&100&&&http://arlweb.msha.gov/alerts/prevent-structural-failures-alert%20.pdf#_blank) or see attached document.

Ask the following questions when considering the risks and controls in regards to Structural Integrity:

* When considering the structural integrity of buildings, conveying systems, walkways, platforms, tanks, etc., is there a risk of failure which could cause serious injury or a fatality to personnel?
* If a risk is identified, are there critical controls in place to prevent a serious injury or fatality?
* Is inspection of structures part of the work place exam? Has this expectation been set with employees?
* Is structural integrity included in your Risk Register? If so, when was the last time it was updated?
* Do you have a process for regularly assessing the condition of buildings, conveying systems, walkways, platforms, tanks, etc?
* When was the last third party structural inspection conducted?
* Do you have dedicated resources to accomplish needed repairs in a timely manner?