

# Toolbox Talk: Shorter Daylight Hazards

## Visibility Issues During Early Sunsets and Foggy Mornings

As we move into the fall and winter months, daylight hours decrease, creating new hazards on mine sites. Early sunsets and foggy mornings can significantly reduce visibility, putting miners, equipment operators, and support staff at greater risk. Recognizing these seasonal changes and adjusting work habits is critical to maintaining a safe workplace.

### Why It Matters

- Reduced Light: Shorter days mean more time spent working in dim conditions, especially at shift changes or during travel to and from work areas.
- Fog Formation: Cool mornings often bring fog, which can obscure haul roads, walkways, and work zones.
- Glare: Low sun angles at sunrise and sunset create blinding glare, reducing reaction time for equipment operators and drivers.



### Common Hazards

- Equipment collisions due to poor visibility.
- Slips, trips, and falls in low light conditions.
- Difficulty spotting ground personnel near operating equipment.
- Delayed recognition of changing ground or road conditions.



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### Safe Work Practices

**Use Proper Lighting:** Ensure vehicle headlights, work area lights, and personal lamps are clean and fully functional. Replace burned-out bulbs immediately.

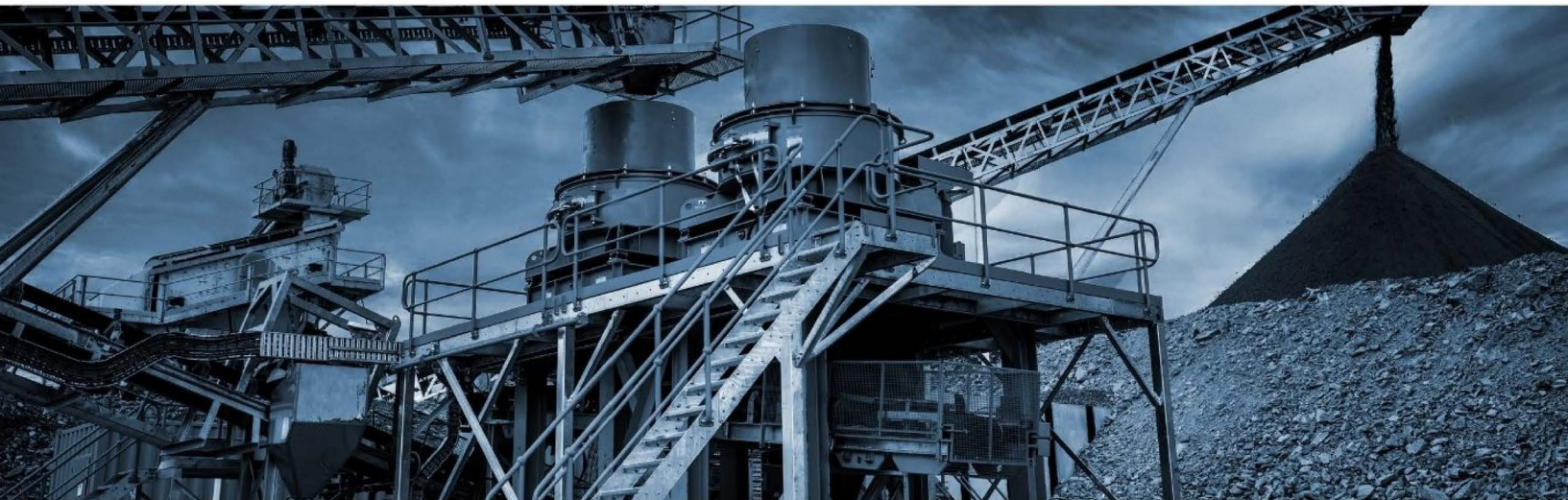
**Wear High-Visibility Gear:** Bright, reflective clothing increases your chance of being seen in dim or foggy conditions.

**Adjust Speed:** Reduce travel and operating speeds when visibility is limited—whether due to darkness, glare, or fog.

**Communicate Clearly:** Use radios, hand signals, and eye contact when working around equipment in low light.

**Take Extra Time:** Allow additional travel time when conditions are poor. Rushing in reduced visibility increases the chance of an accident.

**Stay Alert:** Expect that other workers may have difficulty seeing you. Always position yourself in a safe location when near moving equipment.



### Key Takeaway

Seasonal changes bring new challenges to safety. Shorter daylight hours, foggy mornings, and low sun glare require extra attention from every miner. By slowing down, staying visible, and maintaining situational awareness, we can prevent accidents and keep our crews safe throughout the fall and winter months.

**Discussion Question for Today's Crew:** *What visibility challenges have you noticed on your shift, and what steps can we take as a team to address them?*

