

United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

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To: BLM Employees, Nevada

From: State Director, Nevada

Subject: Safety Policy

As we begin the New Year, I want to reemphasize and share with you my commitment to safety.

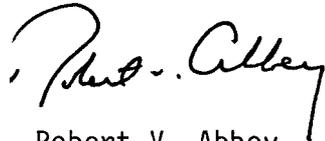
The purpose of safety is simple -- to accomplish our goals and to provide employees and visitors with a safe and healthy environment. As such, safety is a core value, a management and worker responsibility inherent in everything we do which cannot be deleted for convenience or expediency. Accidents can cause tragic loss of life and suffering; managers and supervisors must also understand that accidents always reduce performance and lower quality of life. While accident investigation and reporting are often the most visible elements in Bureau of Land Management (BLM) safety programs, the emphasis in Nevada will be on accident prevention. Leadership at every level must integrate risk management principles into the planning and execution of everything we do. The success of our diverse missions and the safety of our dedicated employees depend on it.

No mission, no activity, no job is so important that we will knowingly expose any employee to an unacceptable degree of risk. Supervisors at all levels are responsible for accident prevention and employee training and are accountable that personnel under their control observe appropriate safety and occupational health rules and regulations. Management will maintain a safe and healthful environment and promptly evaluate and take actions to correct hazards reported by employees or identified through an inspection or accident investigation.

All employees will comply with established standards and promptly report all hazards to their supervisor or the safety manager for correction. The most nebulous, but probably the most important, aspect of safety is fostering, nurturing, and maintaining a culture of Safety Awareness. Every person must be aware of what they are doing, the type of environment in which they are operating, and the possible consequences of their actions.

Communication is a critical aspect of any successful endeavor. To this end, each manager and supervisor is responsible to ensure that critical issues involving safety are communicated up, down, and across the organization. These issues include, but are by no means limited to, training initiatives, identified hazards and deficiencies, and adverse environmental conditions.

Finally, I do not believe that accidents "just happen". I challenge each manager, supervisor, and employee throughout Nevada to take those actions necessary to prevent the needless and costly waste of material, time, and human resources that result from mishaps.



Robert V. Abbey