

For Immediate Release  
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**Maine Aggregate Association to Partner with MSHA's EFSMS & National Health & Safety Mine Academy**

At the April 29<sup>th</sup> MSHA Training Summit, MSHA's Education, Policy & Development Director Jeff Duncan announced a partnership with Maine Aggregate Association, Education Field Small Mine Services (EFSMS) and the Mine Academy to develop training materials to assist Small Mine Operators.

With an increase in fatalities in the mining industry, MSHA has significantly increased its outreach to the mining community. MSHA will also be focusing enforcement efforts on Training, Task Training, Workplace Exams, Lock-Out/Tag-Out, Pre-Operational Checks and Personal Protective Equipment.

The outreach includes Quarterly conference calls with Stakeholders, a new website MSHA Training Center ([www.msha.gov/training](http://www.msha.gov/training)), funding for the State Grants Program and additional training materials for small mine operators.

Chip Laite, President of the Maine Aggregate Association State Council of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Council said "This outreach is a positive step that will help increase mine safety for all miners". The collaborative effort by MSHA with the Maine Aggregate Association is much welcomed by operators of all sizes.

The project has started with tours of several small mining operations and a brainstorming session. Scripting and additional filming will take place over the next several months and final editing late this fall. Hopefully this project will be completed in early 2016 and be available for the 2016 Spring Thaw training workshops.

MAA is a state-wide member based group of businesses and individuals involved with the aggregate industries, more commonly known as sand, gravel, rock and stone. MAA is recognized for its leadership in promoting sound operations, environmental compliance, training and a top down commitment to safety.

MAA is also the State Council for the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association. <http://www.holmessafety.org>, a nonprofit organization that began in 1916 to promote health and safety in the mining industry and consists of representatives from Federal and State Governments, mining organizations & companies, organized labor and workers.

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