

<u>DIVISION OF MINES GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF REGULATORY STANDARDS MANUAL</u>	
COAL MINE SAFETY ACT	CHAPTER 14.2
ARTICLE 1	GENERAL PROVISIONS
Issue Date: 4/10/00 Revised Date:	Page 1 of 1

Section 45.1-161.8. Definitions “Accidents”

Reporting and Investigating an Accident:

There have been questions about what incidents are considered to be an accident requiring prompt reporting to the Division. There are 13 distinct events that are to be considered as mine accidents under the definition of accident. It is the operator’s responsibility to report all accidents as required under Section 45.1-161.78 A of the MSA. Since the definition of accident covers a broad range of incidents and circumstances that may occur at a mine, the inspector should review with the operator requirements of this section with regard to reporting. The inspector should encourage the operator to report any incident that may be an accident as defined in the MSA (such as roof fall, serious personal injury, etc). Upon receiving the report of an accident, the DM representative will help determine whether or not the incident is a reportable accident, and whether or not to dispatch an inspector to the mine to conduct an investigation. The inspector should also review procedures in the DM Procedures Manual concerning emergency response in determining when to respond, who to notify, and other responsibilities in responding and investigating accidents. The inspector is also required to provide assistance to the operator as needed and to issue any orders as may be necessary to ensure the safety of persons at the mine.

