

# IMPACT

UAF Cooperative Extension Service

## More than 100,000 workers in Alaska take required mine safety and health training

### Issue

Mine work inherently involves exposure to a variety of risks and potential dangers. To protect health and safety at sites, ongoing safety instruction by experienced instructors and a well-prepared workforce are needed. The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) mandates the training for all mine workers and it must be conducted by certified, experienced mine safety professionals.

### Response

The Mining and Petroleum Training Service (MAPTS) has provided health and safety training since 1979, and has trained well over 100,000 individuals. Its instructors are MSHA-certified and have decades of experience working in the mining industry.

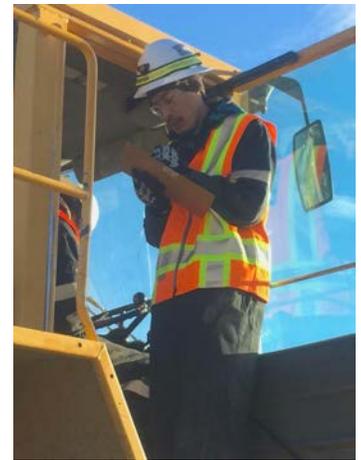
The Mine Safety and Health Administration designated MAPTS as its main state provider for the training. Mine workers required to take the training include surface miners, underground miners, some recreational miners and individuals who work in and around sand and gravel operations. Before the pandemic, MAPTS provided monthly training for each type of MSHA training in Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks and Soldotna. Due to COVID travel restrictions, MAPTS transitioned the health and safety training to distance delivery in 2020. This allows it to reach even more students, in state and out of state.

### Results

The quality instruction provided by MAPTS fulfills MSHA's directive to train employees working in and around mine sites. This means workers can show up to

their jobs in compliance and ready to work, while having the knowledge and skills to maintain a safe work environment. Trainees are better equipped to protect the health and safety of themselves and others, which helps keep the industry sustainable.

J.P. Roulet, the health and safety specialist for the Greens Creek Mining Co., appreciates the training. "MAPTS provided relevant and meaningful MSHA annual refresher training for all Hecla-Greens Creek employees through distance learning, which allowed us to follow social distancing guidelines and maintain the health and safety of our employees," he said. "This type of distance learning would have been very difficult to conduct in-house, but with the expertise and guidance of the professionals at MAPTS, the training has been exceptional."



A student at the Mining and Petroleum Training Service camp performs a preoperation inspection of equipment, one of the topics covered in training.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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