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## **ABANDONED MINE LANDS PROGRAM FACT SHEET**

**As of January 8, 2015**

1. The Nevada Abandoned Mine Lands Program was initiated by the Nevada Legislature and is administered by the Nevada Division of Minerals under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 513.
2. It is estimated approximately **200,000** abandoned mine features exist in Nevada as a result of historic mining activity. Approximately **50,000** may present physical safety hazards.
3. The program has two major tasks:
  - a. Abatement of Hazardous Conditions – Under Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 513, the Division conducts a state-wide inventory of abandoned mine hazards, identifying and applying a hazard ranking to each hazardous condition. Land status research is conducted to identify responsible parties who have hazardous mine openings on their property or mining claims. The responsible parties are required by NAC to secure the hazardous conditions. If securing work is not accomplished in the time frame established by regulation, the Division notifies the appropriate County Commission if enforcement action is necessary. If no landowner or claimant exists, the Division, in coordination with federal land management agencies (BLM, US Forest Service) fences hazardous mine openings as soon as possible based on the hazard ranking. Warning signs are placed on the fences.
  - b. Public Awareness - The Division educates the public about the dangers in and around abandoned mines. The motto “Stay Out and Stay Alive” is stressed at school presentations, public events and forums, through information mail outs and presented through a variety of handout materials produced and distributed by the Division. The Division’s 11-minute “Stay Out and Stay Alive” video has been provided to all Nevada public and private schools and public libraries.
4. The program is funded by fees paid by the minerals industry and assistance agreements with the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service. Three Division personnel are primarily assigned to the abandoned mine lands program.
5. Since 1987 through **January 8, 2015** the Division has identified and ranked **18,654** hazardous mine openings throughout the state. Landowners, claimants, counties, and the Division have secured **14,946 (80.1%)** of these openings. Priority attention is given to hazards located near populated areas.
6. **There were NO reported abandoned mine injuries or fatalities in 2014.**
7. For more information about Nevada’s abandoned mined lands program, please contact the Division of Minerals.