



The Group with the Scoop

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OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION IS A dangerous business

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MLG cases of interest

Because of the events at Upper Big Branch and Sago in recent years we know all too well that underground mining can end in tragedy. However, most people do not realize that oil and gas extraction work takes more lives annually than all other mining activities. Between 2003 and 2010 a total of 823 oil and gas extraction workers were killed on the job – a fatality rate nearly twice as great as all other mining activities combined and, alarmingly, seven times greater than the U.S. rate for all other industries.

According to the same statistics, an average of 4,425 non-fatal injuries are suffered by oil and gas workers every year. Disturbingly, when an oil and gas worker is hurt on the job, the injuries tend to be much more severe – the median is 30 days off work compared to 7 in all other industries.

The obvious truth is that oil and gas extraction employees work harder and longer than most of us, doing things that can be dangerous. However, almost all of the deaths and injuries suffered on the job by oil and gas workers are preventable:

- 41% of oil and gas workers' deaths happened in vehicle accidents
- 15% of oil and gas workers' deaths happened in fires and explosions



- 57% of oil and gas workers' injuries were caused when workers were struck by or caught in or against an object or piece of equipment
- 15% of oil and gas workers' injuries were caused by falling

While West Virginia workers will continue to seek the rewards promised by higher wages in the oil and gas extraction industry, the only real way to significantly reduce the risk is to hold producers, operators and contractors responsible when their reckless, careless and sometimes intentional conduct leads to a preventable death or injury.

If you or someone you love sustains any of these types of injuries, contact a Miley Legal Group attorney to safeguard your rights. ■



Fighting like a Tiger for you!

citizen spotlight

DANIEL DENOON,
RETIRED COAL MINER



Daniel DeNoon

Name: Daniel DeNoon

Age: 66 years old

Married? Pamela DeNoon Married 49 years on September 4th

Profession? Retired Coal Miner

How many years in the mines? Retired in 2001 with a disability after 22 years in the mines

What was the most difficult part of being a coal miner? The environment and mandatory long hours.

Did you work for Patriot Coal? If not, where? I worked for AEP & Peabody, but NOT PATRIOT.

What were you supposed to receive when you retired? Pension and health insurance for my wife and me.

What has been happening with your retirement? Patriot was formed to fail in a sense that when Peabody formed Patriot in 2007, they gave it 43% of their liabilities but only 11% of their assets. Patriot then declared bankruptcy in 2012 and asked permission from the court to be allowed to eliminate retiree health care and its current contract with the miners.

Who is trying to help you? The UMWA with the support of other unions are fighting for our pensions and health insurance benefits. They are holding rallies and trying to get a care bill passed on Capitol Hill in Washington DC. I have been active in both areas from abandon mine reclamation Fund, and Excess.

Is this taking its toll on you? It is make me feel depressed. We were hoping Senator Rockefeller's bill would pass and it would help us all until our death... BUT I WILL REMAIN STRONG!

What advice would you give our readers? Keep your head high- with respect for yourself and others & trust in God.

Is there anything you would like to add? Our senators & congress people need to step it up and help out. NOT JUST TALK, but with action OUR PEOPLE NEED THE HELP! *I want to leave my grandkids a future!*

Update: August 16th the UMWA and Patriot Coal came to an agreement regarding the benefit package the miners would have from this point forward. The settlement has not solved the problem but it helped buy time before a more permanent solution is determined. ■

insurance company surveillance

When you file an auto accident claim to be compensated for injuries that were the fault of another, you may become a celebrity of sorts. Some insurance companies will watch your every move to make sure you are as injured as you claim.

And, it's perfectly legal.

Surveillance can take the form of photos or video (sometimes taken out of context), and your actions will be documented. There are certain restrictions on this covert activity. The "spy" can't come on to your property to take footage, and they are prohibited from using enhanced camera equipment to peer into your home from afar, such as telephoto lenses. There are circumstances in which there is an implied expectation of privacy on your property that they are not allowed to breach—for instance, a 6-foot-high fence encompasses your backyard.

But public settings are fair game. When you take a walk, go out to eat, or run errands, you may have company. You can even be photographed or videotaped while on the job if you work in a public place.

Physical surveillance is not the only tool insurance companies employ. Social networking sites often do the hard work for them. Some people display a lot of information on Facebook and Twitter in various forms. Insurance companies will gladly take the guise of friends and followers to harvest a bounty of alleged evidence.

Honesty is the best policy to combat insurance surveillance. If you don't exaggerate your claim, you generally have nothing to worry about. ■

NANCY BROWN'S ultimate chocolate chocolate chip cookies

Adapted from the Nestles Original recipe on the chocolate chip bag

8 cups (72 oz pkg. of choc. chips, divided)	1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 sticks butter, softened	1 tsp. salt
2 2/3 cups all-purpose flour	1 tsp. vanilla extract (Watkins)
1 cup packed brown sugar	3 eggs
1 tsp. baking soda	

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

Melt 2 cups chocolate chips.

Beat butter, brown sugar, sugar and vanilla extract in a bowl. Add eggs one at a time beating well after each addition. Beat in melted chocolate. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in remaining chocolate chips. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased baking sheet.

Bake for 8 to 9 minutes or until cookies are puffed. Cool for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely. Do not bake more than 9 minutes – it will dry out the cookies. I usually bake on a baking stone. ■



Nancy Brown

pet peeves with Mia and Dexter

Mia and Dexter here with some sad news – our brother Snowball passed away on June 30th. Our mommy cried and cried. It has been really hard on our whole family. He got sick with cancer in his spleen, and unfortunately, there wasn't anything the doctors could do to save him.

In his memory, and so that you all can help keep your feline friends healthy, we'd like to share some information about the signs and symptoms that may come along with cancer in cats.

Though cancer is less common in cats than in dogs, it often appears as a more aggressive type, so it's really important to catch it early. Some warning signs are obvious, such as diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, or abnormal growths. However, cats are notoriously good at hiding illnesses, so you should also be on the lookout for more subtle changes in their behavior and appearance, including a rough coat, refusal to eat, and lethargy.

Unfortunately, by the time most cats have been diagnosed it's usually too late to help them. That's why the key is to act preventatively and catch illnesses quickly. Keep your kitty



Snowball



Mia and Dexter

companion up to date on shots and veterinary visits, even if they hate it, and get them "fixed" (spayed or neutered) to prevent certain types of cancers. Additionally, keep them indoors and away from strange cats to decrease their risk of feline leukemia, one of the most common cat cancers. And last, but not least: pay attention – know your cat and take action if you notice them acting quirky.

Snowball, it's a lot different without you around the house, and we miss you very much. You were a great "big" brother.

Love,
Mia and Dexter ■



Fighting like a Tiger for you!

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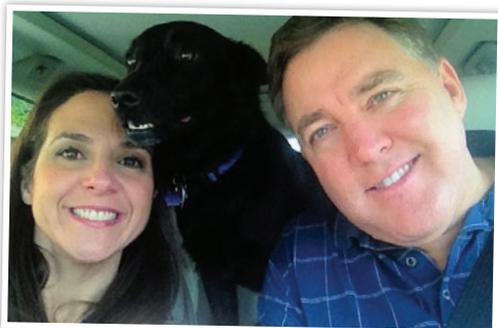
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Miley Family Fun – Carriage Ride at the Greenbrier



Hunter's first day



Dexter turned 3 yrs old

MLG Cases Of Interest

STRUCK HEAD ON BUT INSURANCE DENYING LIABILITY

Our 53 year old client, driving a small pickup truck in Weston, WV, was struck head-on, when a vehicle veered into his lane of travel. Our client suffered a concussion, neck sprain/strain and a left shoulder injury. The unusual aspect of this case is that the insurance company for the at-fault driver is denying liability and claiming "sudden emergency."

MOTORCYCLIST T-BONED

Our client, a retired Vietnam Vet and motorcyclist, was struck by

a truck pulling out of a driveway. As the truck backed out, the brush guard caught his leg, requiring him to be life-flighted to WVU and undergo four different surgeries and skin grafts.

WRONG HOUSE DEMOLISHED

Our client's rental property was destroyed after it was wrongly included in a list of homes to be demolished by a city's contractor. Litigation against the city and its contractor resulted in them paying the market value of the home plus other damages.

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