

I was told recently that the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) had taken a stance that collecting small amounts of rock specimens for personal use would no longer be allowed.

I wrote the following e-mail to the district manager of MSHA for the state of Arizona:

*Richard Laufenberg  
District Manager  
MSHA*

*Dear Sir,*

*I am writing to inquire about your organizations stance on individuals collecting small amount of rock specimens for personal use on Federal lands such as BLM, National Forests. Etc. as long as their regulations are followed?*

*I was recently speaking with an individual who had been a caretaker at a mine in Arizona and he told me that he was told by personnel that work for MSHA that this type of activity was over for everyone.*

*I participate in this type of activity on a regular basis and I am concerned as he said that I could be arrested and sent to jail for this type of activity?*

*Your prompt response to this request would be greatly appreciated.*

*Ron Ginn*

I have attached a document containing the response that I received. I'm happy to report that it seems that MSHA is not after rockhounds.