



## MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Safety Idea

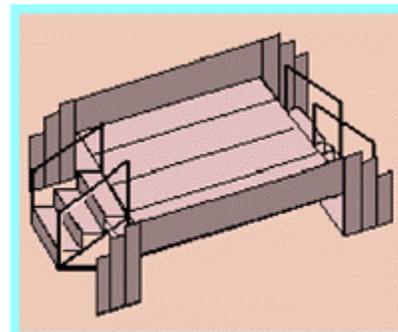
**SAFETY  
IS A  
VALUE!**

### Overcast Design

**Category :** Back Injuries  
**Mine Type:** Underground Coal

Conventional overcasts can be labor intensive, expensive and time consuming. A possible alternative to this could be modular, re-usable structures. These structures should have the following characteristics:

- Lightweight and durable
- Easy to transport and assemble (no special tools required)
- Inexpensive
- Reliable and efficient
- Sturdy enough to resist rib rolls and minor roof material



A small crew can build modular overcast units in a couple of hours. The lightweight design reduces the probability of muscular strains and sprains. The design should include the flexibility to adjust dimensions and provide an optimum fit.

When traveling over an overcast, slipping and tripping hazards can arise. Several manufacturers provide pre-manufactured designs of stairs complete with automatic stair tread adjustment to adapt to any overcast height. These units should include properly designed handrails and slip proof stair treads.

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**Remember – Safety is a Value that you can LIVE with!**