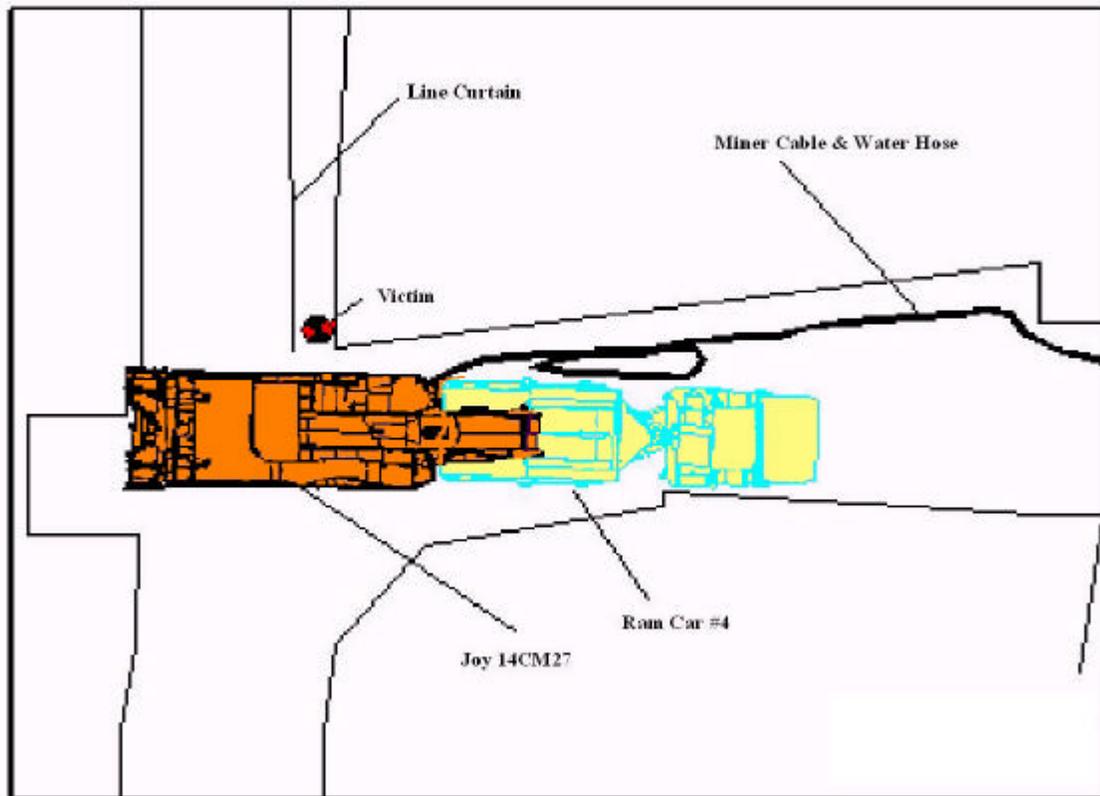




Fatality #20 - July 2, 2003
Machinery - Underground - Kentucky
Highland Mining Company - Highland Mine

COAL MINE FATALITY - On July 2, 2003, a 49 year old continuous mining machine operator, with 30 years of mining experience, was fatally injured when he was struck in the neck by a small piece of metal. The operator had mined 12 feet of coal from the left side of 2 left crosscut and moved the continuous mining machine to the right side of the working place. Approximately 18 inches of coal was mined from the right side when the operator was struck in the neck by a broken bit fragment.



Best Practices

- Inspect bits for wear or damage and replace them when either is observed.
- Ensure that all water sprays are operating properly to cool cutting bits, particularly when cutting rock.
- Evaluate equipment during repairs, removing any metal burrs and determining if further repairs are necessary when scraping of metals is obvious.
- Wear personal protective equipment at all times.