



**Fatality #29 – November 14, 2003**  
**Machinery - Surface - WV**  
**Hobet Mining, Inc. - Peats Branch No. 3**

**COAL MINE FATALITY** - On November 14, 2003, a 58-year-old supervisor with 21 years mining experience was fatally injured when the excavator he was operating overturned into a pool of water. At the time of the accident, he was tramping the machine through a wet area to access and clear a blocked culvert. The victim was trapped by the machine under water and heavy mud for approximately 5½ hours. Flooding had recently occurred at the accident site.



**BEST PRACTICES**

- Assess risks related to a task before starting the work.
- Examine work areas for potential hazards relevant to scheduled tasks.
- Provide safe access to work areas.
- Ensure workers are trained in the health and safety aspects of the jobs they do.
- Be alert to changes in ground conditions after severe rains and flooding.
- Examine off-road access routes before moving machines across them.
- Travel slowly with attachments and booms in the carry position.

This is the 29th fatality reported in the calendar year 2003 in the coal mining industry. As of this date in 2002 there were 23 fatalities. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> fatality classified as machinery in 2003. At this time in 2002, there were two fatalities classified as machinery.