

*This presentation is for illustrative and **general** educational purposes only and is not intended to substitute for the official MSHA Investigation Report analysis nor is it intended to provide the sole foundation, if any, for any related enforcement actions.*

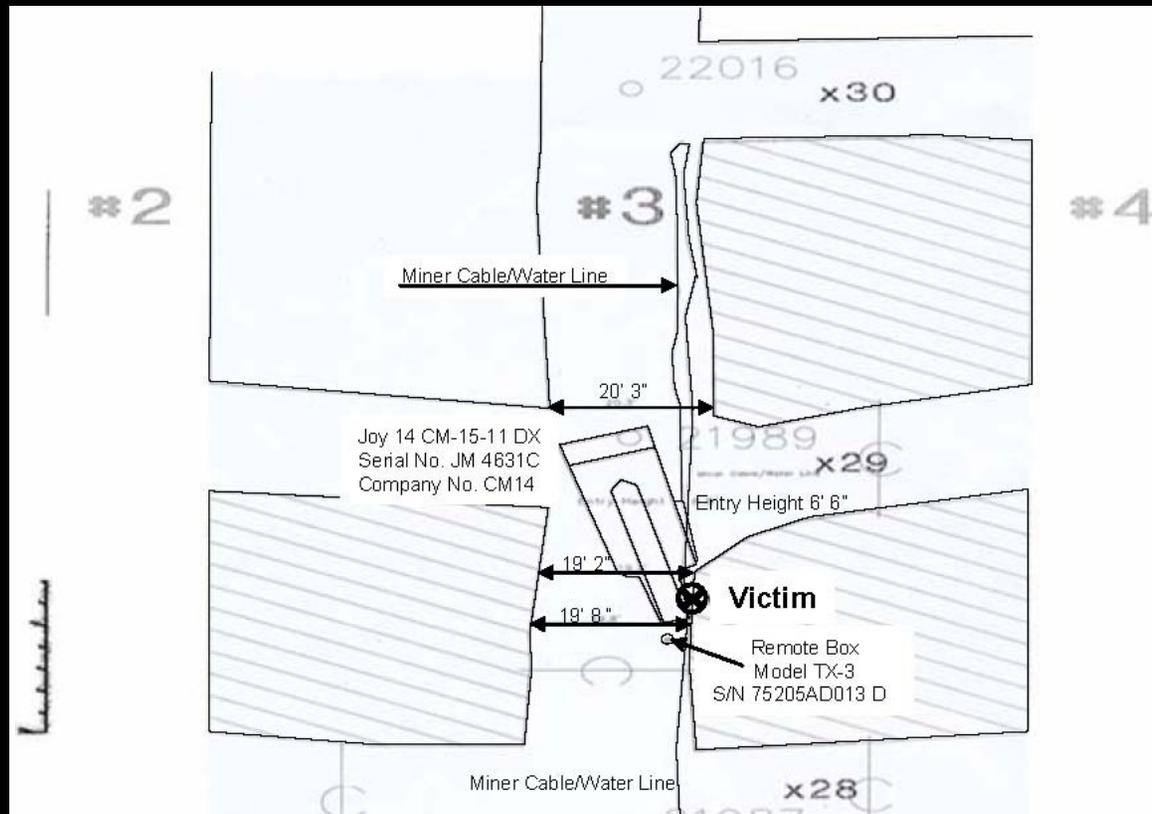
GENERAL INFORMATION

Coal Mine Fatal Accident 2004-09



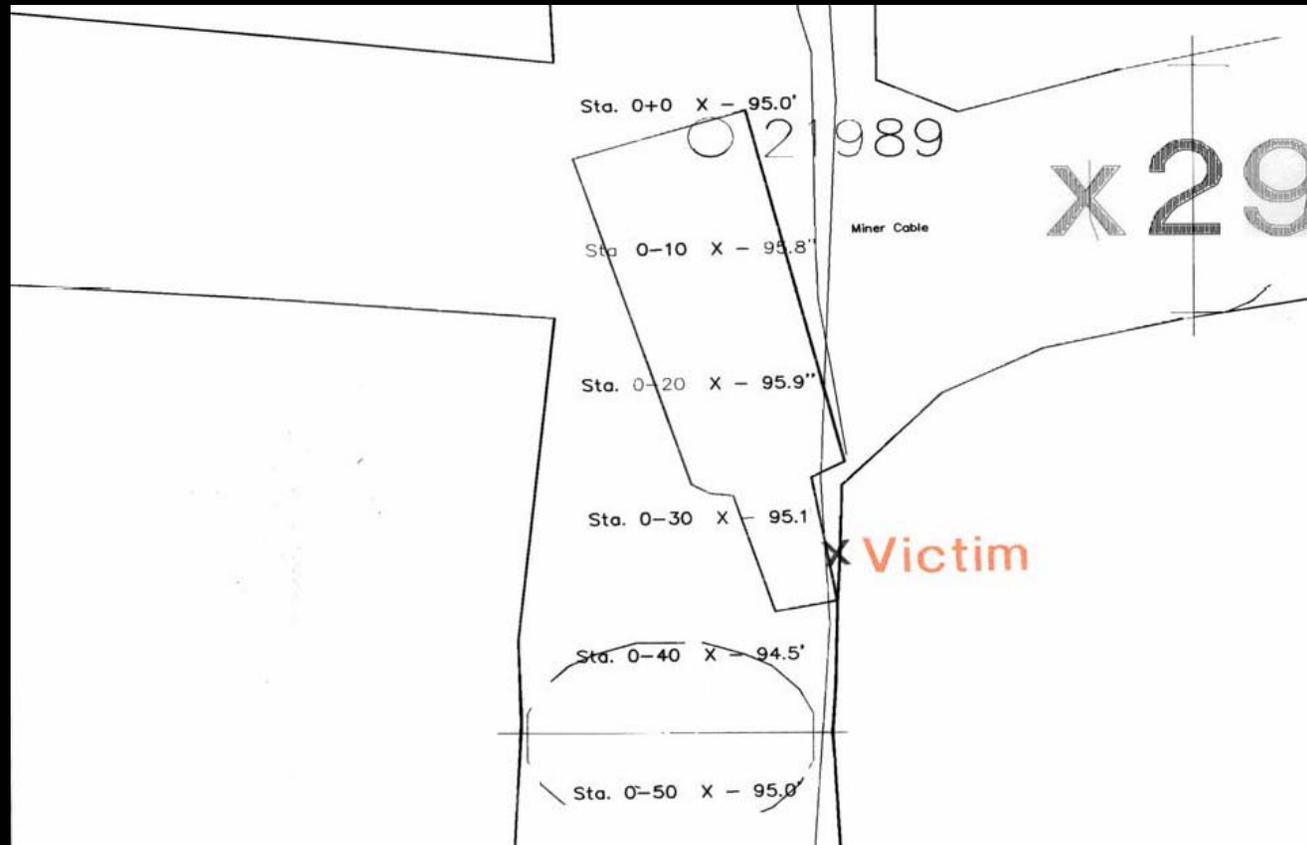
Operator:	Black Beauty Coal Company
Mine:	Air Quality #1 Mine
Accident Date:	May 18, 2004
Classification:	Machinery
Location:	District 8, Knox County, IN
Mine Type:	Underground
Employment:	242
Production	16,000 Tons/Day

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION



A Mechanic/Electrician was fatally injured while moving the left-side continuous mining machine out of the face area of the No. 3 Entry to allow access for servicing. The machine pivoted for some undetermined reason(s) and crushed him between the continuous mining machine discharge boom and the coal rib. There were no eyewitnesses to the accident.

CONCLUSION



The cause of the accident was the failure to ensure that all workers followed the safety precautions contained in the mine's approved Roof Control Plan in regard to not standing or walking between the continuous mining machine and the coal rib while the machine is in motion. The victim was located in a pinch point created by the continuous mining machine and the coal rib.

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Causal Factor: The approved Roof Control Plan was not being complied with when the continuous mining machine operator was positioned in a hazardous location and was crushed between the discharge boom of the continuous mining machine and the coal rib. The approved Roof Control Plan requires the continuous mining machine operator be positioned so as to avoid danger from pinch points and moving equipment.

Corrective Actions: Before resuming operations, training sessions were conducted by mine management emphasizing adherence to the safety precautions in the approved Roof Control Plan.

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Causal Factor: The approved Training Plan was not being followed. Task training required by the plan for the operation of remote controlled continuous mining machines was not being conducted.

Corrective Actions: Mine management shall ensure that all persons who are required to operate continuous mining machines are task trained in accordance with the approved Training Plan.

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Causal Factor: Deficiencies were found in the records required for task training.

Corrective Actions: Mine management shall ensure that all persons receive the proper task and proficiency training and the results are recorded and kept on file.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

104(a) Citation was issued for a violation of 30 CFR 75. 220(a)(1).

Mine management did not ensure their mine personnel were complying with the approved Roof Control Plan. The Roof Control Plan safety precautions stipulate that mine personnel are not to stand or walk between the continuous mining machine and the coal rib while the continuous mining machine is in motion. A fatal machinery accident occurred on May 18, 2004, when a continuous mining machine operator was positioned in a hazardous location and was crushed between the discharge boom of the continuous mining machine and the coal rib.

104(a) Citation was issued for a violation of 30 CFR 48.7(a).

A review of the mine operator's training records revealed that task training in the safe operation of remote controlled continuous mining machines was not provided to a miner who was fatally injured on May 18, 2004, while operating a remote controlled continuous mining machine. The review also revealed that the fatally injured miner had not demonstrated proficiency in the safe operation of remote controlled continuous mining machines.

BEST PRACTICES

- Ensure the continuous mining machine operator and all others are well beyond the turning radius of the machine before starting or moving equipment.
- Ensure the continuous miner is de-energized before positioning the trailing cable.
- Alert anyone who will be operating a continuous miner by remote control that controls will move the machine in the opposite direction when facing towards the boom.
- Establish safe operating procedures for remote control continuous mining machine operations, including tramming and cable handling.
- Ensure everyone including maintenance personnel are thoroughly task trained before operating the continuous miner by remote control.