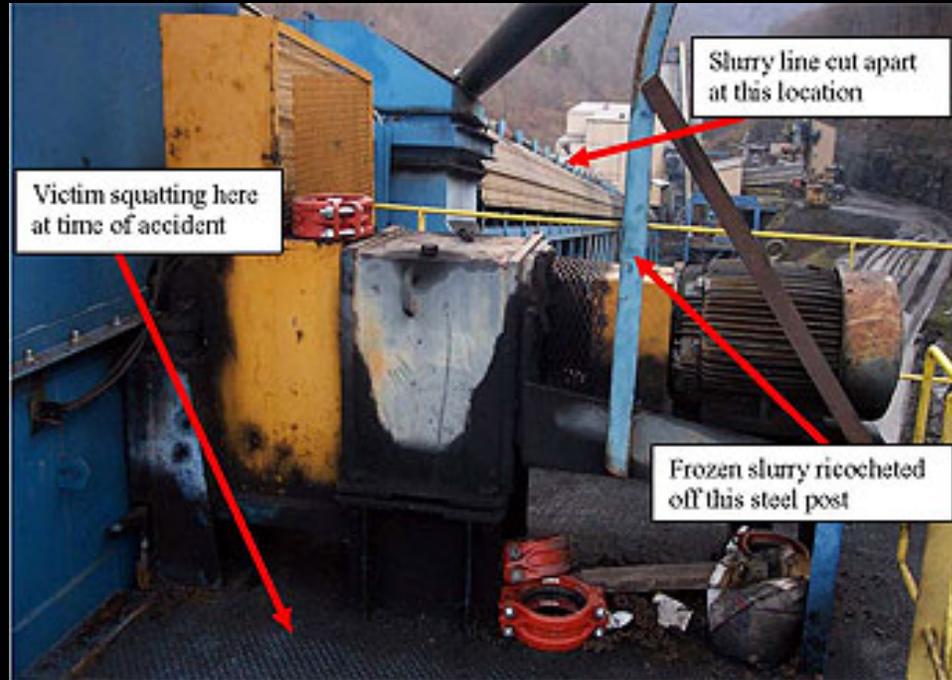


*This presentation is for illustrative and **general** educational purposes only and is not intended to substitute for the official MSHA Investigation Report analysis nor is it intended to provide the sole foundation, if any, for any related enforcement actions.*

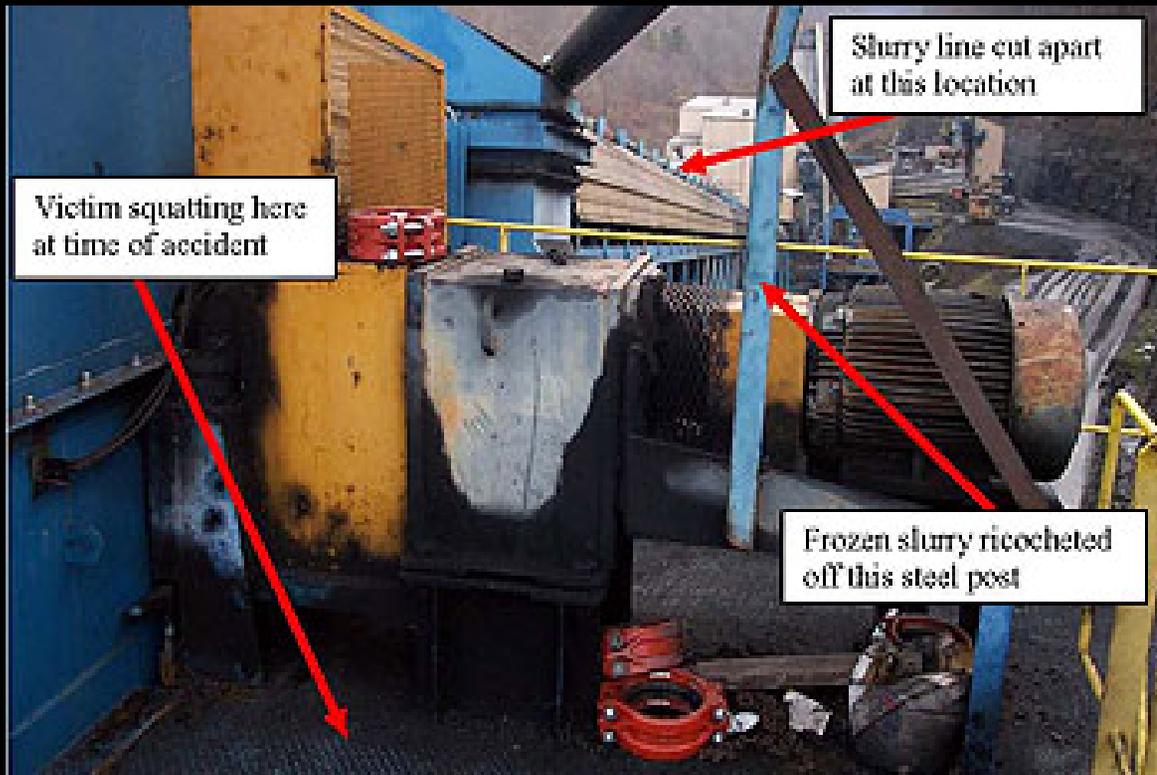
GENERAL INFORMATION

Coal Mine Fatal Accident 2004-28



Operator:	ICG Knott County, LLC
Mine:	Supreme Energy Prep Plant
Accident Date:	December 28, 2004
Classification:	Machinery
Location:	District 7, Knott County, KY
Mine Type:	Preparation Plant
Employment:	17
Production	5000 Tons/Day

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION



At 3:30 p.m. on December 28, 2004, a 64-year old heavy equipment operator with 30 years of mining experience, was fatally injured while he and other miners were trying to dislodge frozen slurry from a slurry pipeline. The miners cut the line several times and energized the slurry pumps, each time trying to force the frozen slurry out of the pipe. On the final attempt, the frozen slurry discharged violently out of the line and traveled approximately 85 feet, hitting and ricocheting off a metal line support, striking the victim in the head.

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Causal Factor: There was no written procedure for the safe unclogging of slurry pipelines.

Corrective Actions: In accordance with 30 C.F.R. §77.1708, mine management established, implemented, and will enforce a detailed written procedure for unclogging slurry pipelines which requires all miners to be behind the open end of the pipe in the opposite direction of the discharged material, in a protected location, before attempting to blow ice and other blockages from the pipe. These procedures shall be incorporated into annual refresher and newly employed miner training.

CONCLUSION

The accident occurred while miners were trying to dislodge frozen slurry from a pipeline. The miners cut the line several times and energized the slurry pumps each time trying to force the frozen slurry out of the pipe. On the final attempt the frozen slurry discharged violently from the pipe. Discharged material traveled approximately 85 feet through the air before ricocheting off a metal support and striking the victim in the head. The accident resulted from a failure to establish and follow safe work procedures for clearing a frozen slurry pipeline.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

104(a) Citation was issued for a violation of 30 CFR 77.1708

The operator has failed to establish an adequate program of instruction, publish and distribute the program to employees and post the program in conspicuous places throughout the mine with regard to safe practices and procedures to be followed when unclogging blocked (frozen) slurry pipelines. This condition was observed during an investigation of an accident which occurred on December 28, 2004, which subsequently resulted in the death of the victim on December 30, 2004. The accident occurred while miners were trying to dislodge frozen slurry from a pipeline.

BEST PRACTICES

- Remain a safe distance from pipes being flushed and allow no one in direct view of pipe openings during flushing.
- Thaw or clear pipes in a manner that does not suddenly release large amounts of energy, wherever possible.
- Install deflection shields over the pipe opening when high pressure flushing methods are used.
- Pipes subject to freezing should, when possible, be buried below the frost line, insulated, or otherwise protected to ensure freezing does not occur.