



Fatality #4 - February 05, 2004
Electrical - Underground - WV
Spartan Mining Co. - Ruby Energy Mine

COAL MINE FATALITY - On Thursday February 5, 2004, a 33-year old electrician with six years mining experience was fatally injured while repairing a damaged 995 volt trailing cable. During a mine-wide power outage, the victim began repairing a damaged continuous mining machine trailing cable. While preparing to splice the third and final power phase, underground electrical power was restored and the electrical circuit breaker was engaged in the closed position causing a fatal electrical shock. The continuous mining machine trailing cable plug was not tagged or locked out.



Best Practices

- Personally lock-out and tag-out electrical circuits before you perform electrical work on a cable or component.
- Do not rely on someone else to *deenergize* or disconnect a circuit for you.
- Never assume that a circuit breaker will not be reset - even if there is no apparent reason for resetting the breaker.
- Never disturb or ignore an electrical tag or lock.
- Thoroughly communicate to determine that it is appropriate to reset a breaker.

This is the fourth fatality reported in calendar year 2004 in the coal mining industry. As of this date in 2003, there were five fatalities reported in coal mining. This is the first fatality classified as Electrical in 2004. There was one Electrical fatality at this time in 2003.