



**Fatality #29 - December 21, 2004**  
**Striking or Bumping - Underground - TN**  
**Tennco Inc - Valley Creek Mine No. 2**

**Coal Mine Fatality** - On Tuesday, December 21, 2004, a 62 year old maintenance worker with 33 years experience, was injured while attempting to install a tire on a shuttle car. As the victim was attempting to tighten the lug bolts, the metal rings and tire blew off of the rim, striking the victim in the head and chest. The victim died on January 4, 2005.



**Best Practices**

- Consult and follow the manufacturer's guidelines for wheel replacement and removal. Reference the following link to obtain various manufacturers' contact information for these guidelines: [http://www.msha.gov/Accident\\_Prevention/Tips/rimwheel.htm](http://www.msha.gov/Accident_Prevention/Tips/rimwheel.htm).
- Clean all rust and dirt from mating surfaces before assembly.
- Don't mix components from different wheel manufacturers or models.
- NEVER beat on a pressurized multi-piece wheel/tire assembly.
- Provide comprehensive tire and rim safety training to maintenance personnel who service tires and rims.
- Never attempt to use broken or worn parts.

This is the 29<sup>th</sup> fatality reported in the coal mining industry in calendar year 2004, and this is the 8<sup>th</sup> classified as Machinery. As of December 21, 2003, there were 30 fatalities.

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The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.