

*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.*

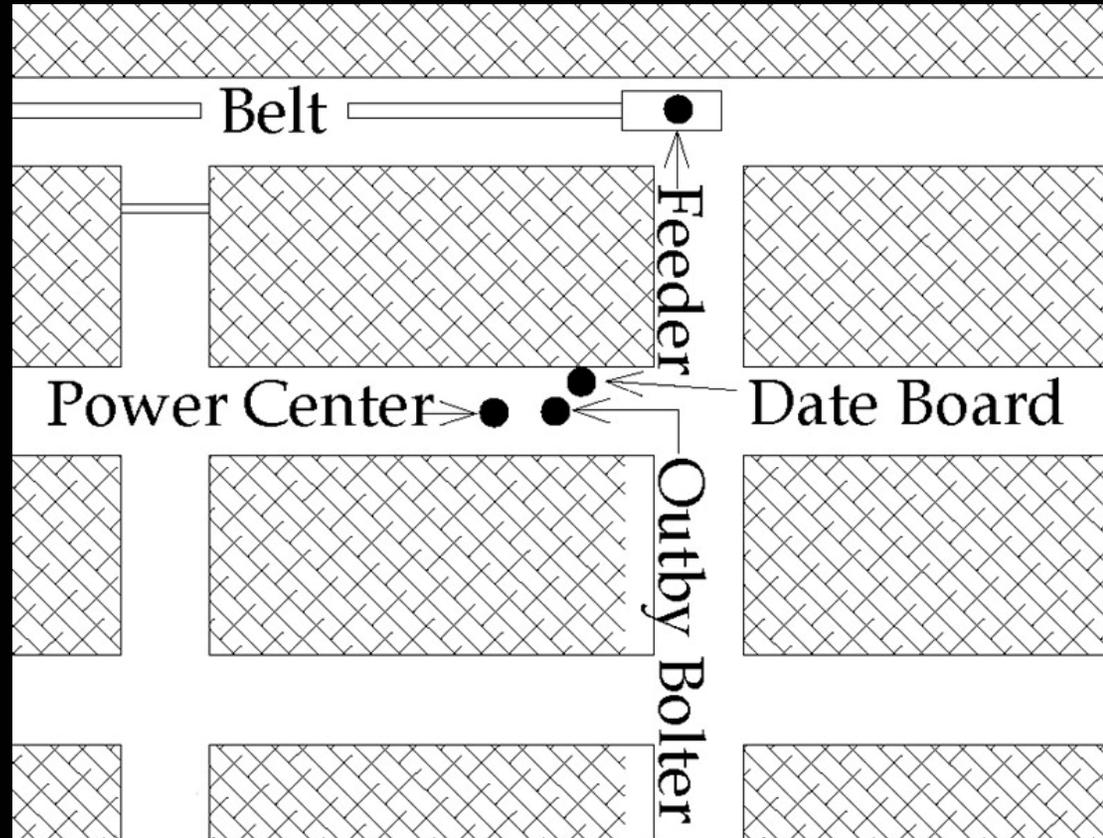
GENERAL INFORMATION

Coal Mine Fatal Accident 2005-06



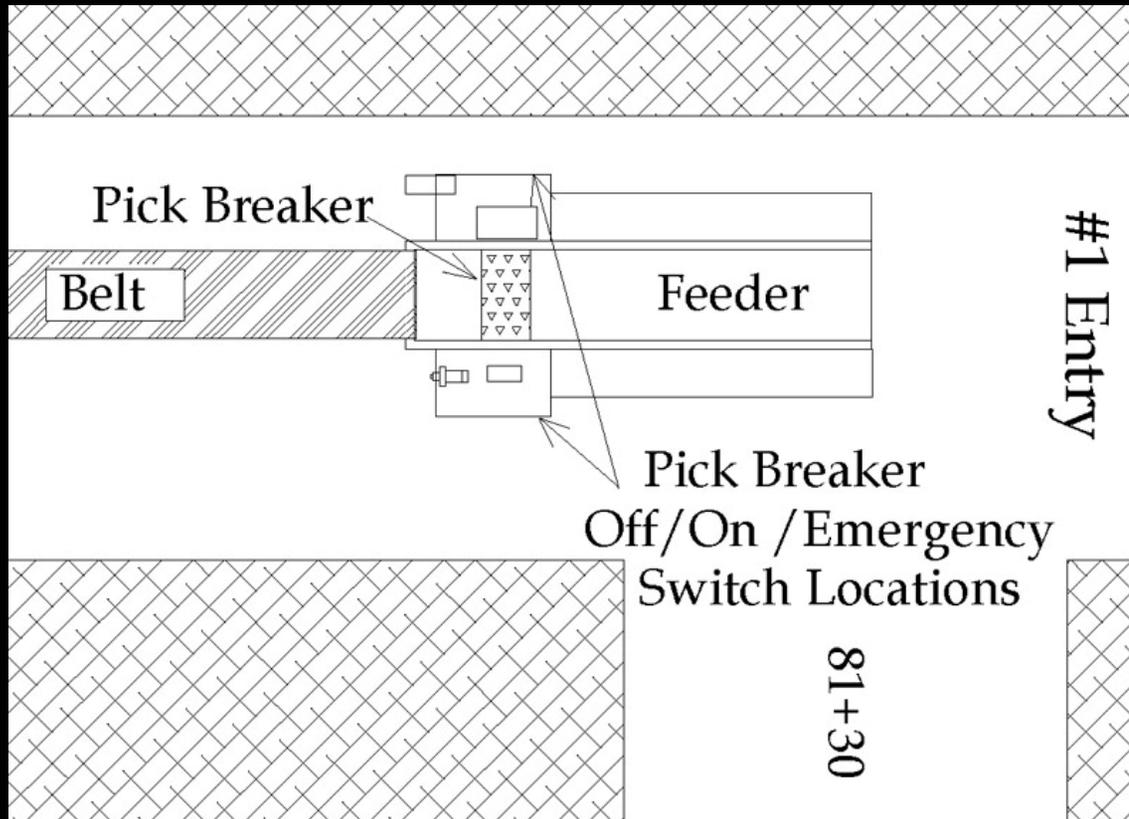
Operator:	The Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Co.
Mine:	North River #1 Underground Mine
Accident Date:	June 1, 2005
Classification:	Powered Haulage
Location:	Dist. 11, Tuscaloosa County, AL
Mine Type:	Underground
Employment:	360
Production:	3.5 million tons/year

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION



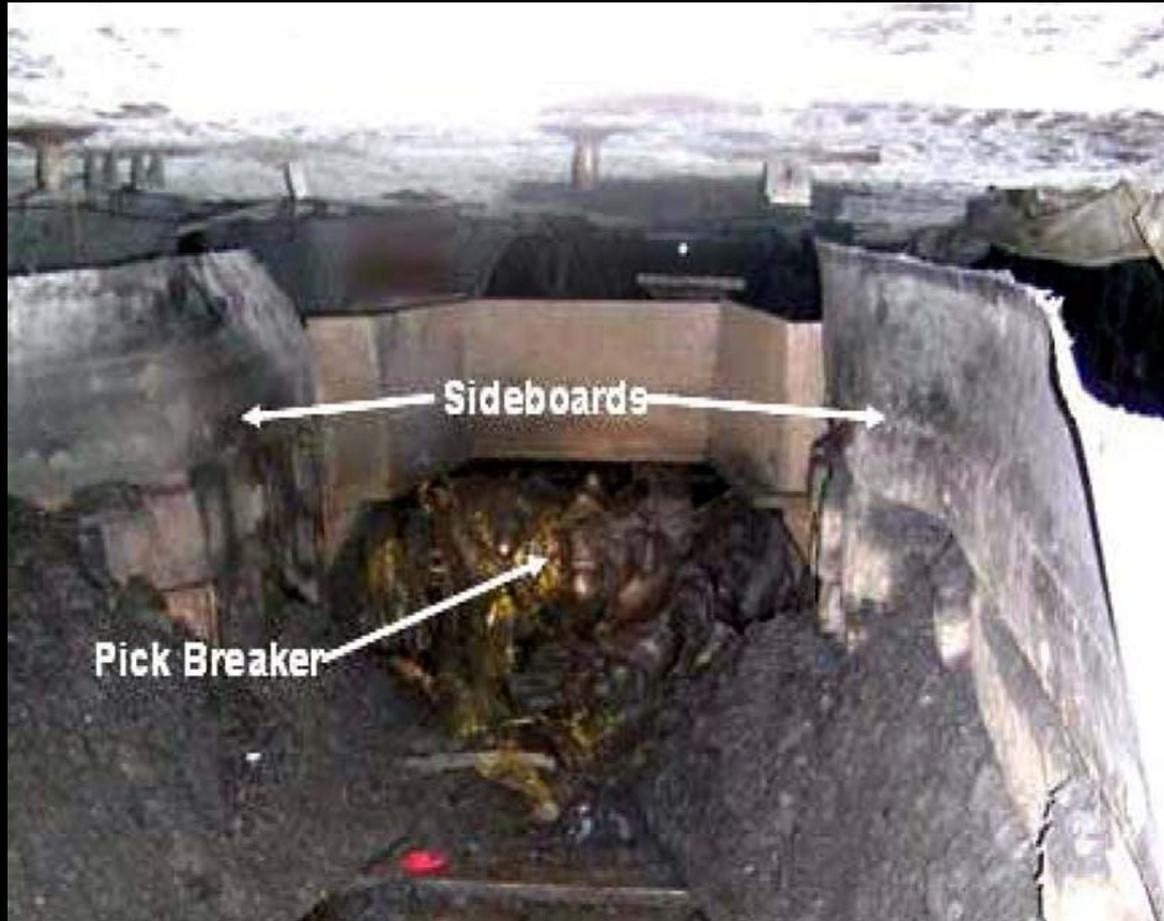
On Wednesday, June 1, 2005, a 42-year old electrician (victim) was assigned as section electrician. After arriving at the section, he talked to the section foreman about repairs to the outby roof bolting machine. He then walked to the power center and closed the circuit breakers to energize the section equipment.

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION



The electrician then went to start the feeder. However, brattice cloth was wrapped around the pick breaker, which he attempted to remove. As he did so, the pick breaker was energized, pulling him into it. The section foreman found him in the feeder shortly after 11:10 p.m. and shut the pick breaker off using the emergency stop button.

CONCLUSION



The victim was fatally injured as he was removing brattice cloth from the feeder pick breaker. The pick breaker, which was not blocked against motion, was started, pulling him into the rotating drum. Management's written procedure, which prohibits work on machinery unless power is removed and the machinery is blocked against motion, was not followed.

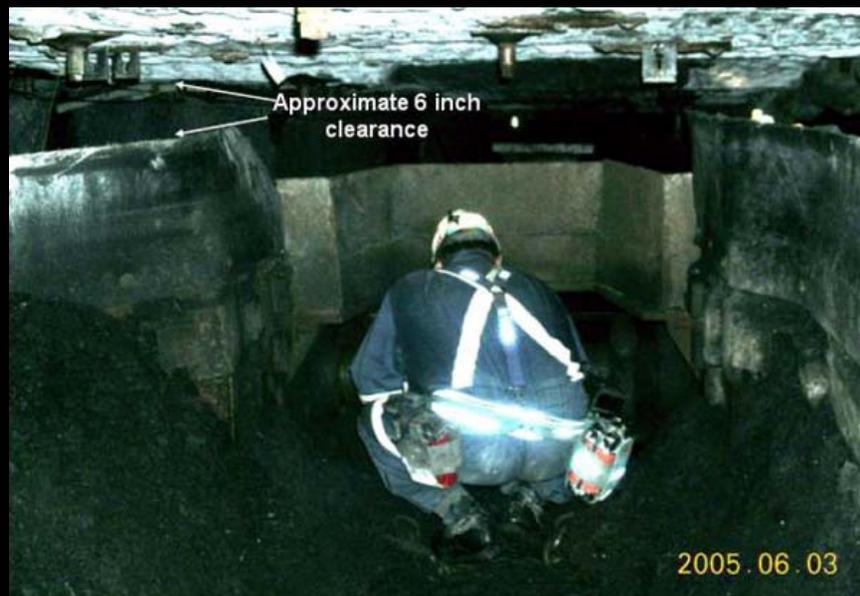
ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Causal Factor: Maintenance work was conducted on a piece of machinery that was not blocked against motion and while the power was not off. While management had written procedures that required power to be removed and machinery blocked against motion, these procedures were not followed.

Corrective Action: The entire workforce has been retrained in the procedures for removing the power and blocking the machine against motion prior to maintenance or work being performed on the machinery. Management should periodically confirm that the procedures are being followed. Additionally, delayed startup and alarms have been installed on the section feeders.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

A §104(a) Citation was issued to the Pittsburgh & Midway Coal Mining Company, North River #1 Underground Mine, for a violation of §75.1725(c). A fatal accident occurred on June 1, 2005. The results of the investigation revealed that power was not removed and the machine was not blocked against motion prior to maintenance or repair on the Oldenburg Stamler Feeder, serial number 13713, located on the West 2 section.



BEST PRACTICES

- Establish and use Lock-Out/Tag-Out procedures.
- Ensure that power is off and cannot be accidentally restored to machinery before any work is performed on such equipment.
- Ensure that machinery is blocked against motion before performing maintenance or repairs.
- Always identify safety hazards before beginning any work task, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant.
- Always position yourself in the safest possible position.