



**Fatality #2 - March 29, 2005**  
**Powered Haulage - Underground - KY**  
**Rockhouse Energy Mining Company (Massey) - Mine #1**

On Tuesday, March 29, 2005, at approximately 8:30 a.m., a 21-year old utility man/scoop operator, with 20 months of mining experience, was fatally injured while operating a battery-powered tractor (shield hauler). While backing the battery tractor into a crosscut, the rear tires of the machine ran over a 14-foot length of metal channel. This caused one end of the channel to raise, enter the operator's compartment, strike and fatally crush the victim.



**Best Practices**

- Examine active roadways as often as necessary to ensure safety, particularly when hauling loose materials.
- Maintain all roadways free of materials that may pose a hazard to equipment operators, passengers or miners.
- Emphasize safe operating procedures for equipment and maintenance of roadways in all training programs.

This is the second fatality reported during calendar year 2005 in the coal mining industry. As of this date in 2004, there were eight fatalities reported in coal mining. This is the first fatality classified as powered haulage in 2005. There were three fatalities in this category at this time in 2004.