

## MSHA Job Safety Tips

### ROOF BOLTER (ANTHRACITE)

The Pennsylvania anthracite industry saw 1995 as its worst year of the last decade for fatal injuries and accidents.

From 1993-1995, four miners died while installing either roof or rib supports. Two of the miners were working inby support, a deadly practice nationwide.

Additionally, two miners were injured and only a save by the canopy on a continuous miner prevented another fatality.

#### **To prevent yourself from becoming the next statistic:**

- Always test the roof and ribs before proceeding inby to install temporary supports.
- Know your roof and rib control plan requirements and install additional support where needed.
- Take a minute or two to observe the area to be supported. Look for cracks or other indications of faults present.
- Prepare, in advance whenever possible, a list of the materials needed.
- When installed supports indicate excessive loading, install additional support/relief timber, from outby, advancing toward the area needing supports.
- Never work inby support other than to install new supports.

U.S. Department of Labor  
Mine Safety and Health Administration