Many roof and rib accidents occur during roof testing and scaling. To safely conduct a roof evaluation and examination, these practices should be followed:

- Know your immediate roof (from the roof control plan).
- Be aware of geological features in the area.
- Constantly observe and test the roof for adverse conditions.
- Always make a visual examination of the area before testing or scaling the roof. If hazardous conditions are observed, testing is not required.
- Wear safety glasses when sounding the roof.
- Keep all lines of communication open with all coworkers regarding adverse roof and rib conditions.
- When a hazard is observed, eliminate the condition as soon as possible; do not depend on others.
- If the roof or ribs are hazardous, support them or remove the hazard by pulling down the hazardous material.
- Always stand under supported top when scaling and testing roof.
Use proper equipment, such as a scaling bar of sufficient length, when scaling roof. (Pry Up, Not Down!)

To prevent hand injuries while using a scaling bar, one method is to slip a piece of water hose about halfway onto the bar; it is deflected away from the hands.

Communicate with the roof bolter operator about the condition of the roof he or she has been drilling so adverse roof can be identified.

Frequently use test hole information for roof evaluation.