

## **What Could Happen (Equipment Blocking)**

### **Discussion Questions**

- What blocking methods are used at your mine?
- Are blocking methods the same for all equipment?
- What keeps us from blocking equipment?
- What actions can we take to ensure that we block equipment when required?

### **Recent Fatalities**

- On Wednesday, July 10, 2002, a 44-year-old mechanic/ truck driver was fatally injured while performing repair work on a haul truck. The transmission had become locked in gear and the mechanic was summoned to repair the truck. While attempting to free the transmission, the mechanic positioned himself under the truck to remove the drive shaft. When the drive shaft was removed, the truck rolled forward crushing the mechanic under the right rear set of tandem wheels. The parking brake had not been set and the truck had not been blocked to prevent movement.
- On April 4, 2005, a 47-year-old mechanic with 28 years mining experience was fatally injured. A forklift was being used to position a motor that was being installed on a continuous miner. The forklift engine was shut off to facilitate communication. The service brakes failed, allowing the forklift to drift forward. The victim was pinned against the continuous miner.
- On October 18, 2005, a 36-year-old miner with 3 years and 8 months mining experience was fatally injured at an underground mine. The victim had parked his articulated haulage unit and exited the operator's cab. He was found pinned beneath the haulage unit.
- On June 17, 2005, a 32-year-old equipment operator/mechanic with 5 years mining experience was fatally injured. The victim was removing toggle seat wedge bolts so that the broken pitman toggle seat could be replaced. The safety pins, provided by the manufacturer, had not been installed nor had other steps been taken to block/ secure this component against hazardous motion. The pitman assembly shifted and pinned the victim against the crusher framework.