



## **April 4, 2007 - Summary of a Non-Fatal Surge-Pile Accident at Premier Elkhorn Coal Company, Burke Branch Tipple, Pike County, Kentucky**

A Caterpillar D9L dozer fell into a void over a clean coal feeder. The operator radioed the control room and the feeder was immediately shut off. The dozer had originally sunk down until only the top of the cab was visible, but soon settled into a blade up position. Two other dozers and two excavators dug the coal away to expose the cab door and the door glass was kicked in to rescue the operator. The entrapment lasted just under three hours.

The dozer was supplied with two SCSR's, redundant radio communications and backup lighting (chemical light sticks). The dozer was not equipped with the Massey "submarine" system or the strengthened "aircraft" glass.