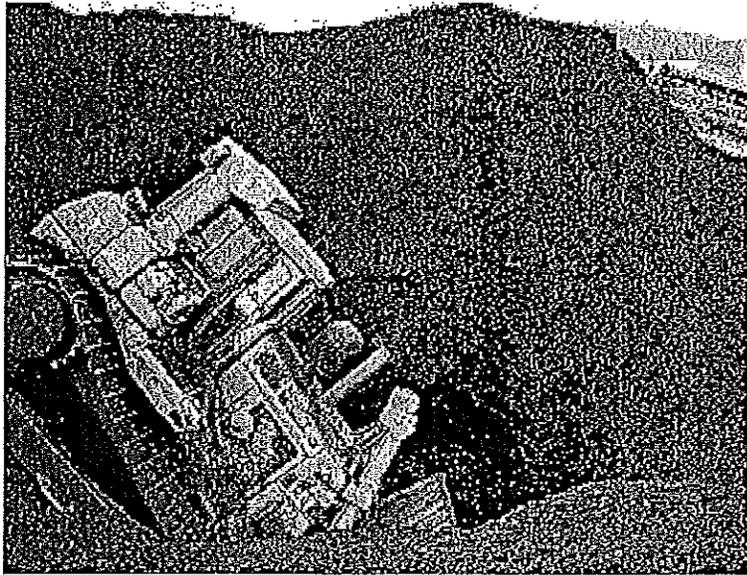


# MSHA Accident Alert



Recently a dozer operator while preparing to push coal into a feeder drove the dozer into the feeder. The operator was thrown through the windshield into the feeder entrance. The operator was not wearing a seatbelt and received serious injuries.

## Mine Operator Best Practices

### Mine operators SHOULD PROVIDE:

- Equipment cabs strong enough to resist burial pressures or use remote-control equipment. This may include chemically strengthened or polycarbonate glass, or, steel reinforcing grids next to the glass inside the cab.
- SCSR's, two-way communications, light sticks and devices to remotely shutdown the stackers and feeders from the cab of every machine operating above feeders.
- Markers suspended above each feeder to identify the location of each feeder draw point or install GPS units on equipment to identify the locations of the feeders.
- Visual indicators of which feeder(s) are active.
- Gates on feeders - or otherwise ensure that coal cannot discharge when a feeder is not activated.
- The feeder operator with the capability to directly observe the conditions and activities on top of the pile (closed circuit TV, warning lights over feeders)
- A system to detect cavities and immediately warn all affected parties. Take measures to ensure that no person is exposed to the hazard.
- Safe procedures to eliminate a cavity or rescue an operator trapped in a cavity, by excavating material at a safe distance off to the side of the cavity and work toward the cavity.
- For additional information, go to the following link:  
[http://www.msha.gov/Accident\\_Prevention/newtechnologies/initiatives/surgepile/surgepile.htm](http://www.msha.gov/Accident_Prevention/newtechnologies/initiatives/surgepile/surgepile.htm)