SAFETY ALERT

Due to accidents and methane ignitions at highwall miner and auger operations, MSHA is providing best practices to aid mine operators in developing sound ground control plans.

BEST PRACTICES

• Provide adequate spacing/webbing between holes to reduce potential cut through and increase highwall stability.

• Ventilate to dilute methane or inert with adequate volume of non-combustible gas.

• Use water sprays to suppress float coal dust.

• Monitor for methane and have action levels established.

• Use explosive-proof equipment inby the collar of the hole.

• Employ an alignment process to assure sufficient barriers are maintained.

• Locate gas wells and/or abandoned mines near the mining zone.

REMEMBER: Safety depends upon what you DO or DON'T DO.