

Remote Control Continuous Miners



Best Practice Series BP-25



Many machinery accidents involve continuous miners operated by remote control.

The continuous miner operator and helper should follow these safe practices:

- ☛ Wear reflective clothing as outer garments.
- ☛ Take shorter cuts when adverse roof conditions are encountered.
- ☛ Do not go inby the continuous miner operator except when required to operate the coal haulage equipment at the face.
- ☛ Be aware of the location of haulage equipment when they approach the continuous miner.
- ☛ Always be sure that everyone is in a safe location when starting the continuous miner.
- ☛ Do not position yourself anywhere beside the continuous miner during tramming operations. (This should keep persons away from any possible pinch points.)
- ☛ Ensure that all persons are beyond the continuous miner's turning radius during remote control tramming.

- ☛ Be aware that wet and muddy floor conditions, dips, and rolls can cause sudden, unexpected movement of any machine.
- ☛ Avoid visibility problems when tramming the miner.
- ☛ Don't set the remote control unit on the continuous miner while operating it.
- ☛ Ensure that all remote control continuous miners on the section are on separate frequencies. This applies to all remote control equipment on a section.
- ☛ Make sure any spare transmitter kept underground is in a secure location to avoid inadvertent operation.
- ☛ Take extra precautions when taking the first cut of a crosscut; the position of the operator is critical.
- ☛ Ensure a crosscut is permanently supported (roof bolted) prior to taking a cut inby or starting the proposed opposite crosscut. (No work or travel shall be inby an unsupported crosscut other than when required for safety exams.)
- ☛ If continuous miner breaks down inby permanent roof support, properly support the roof before repairs are made.
- ☛ Lock out, tag, and block all mining equipment before attempting repairs.

Arrive Home Alive

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May 2010