

Coal Mine Roof Bolter Operators and Helpers



Best Practice Series BP-43



INBY IS OUT!

Accidents involving roof bolter operators and helpers continue to cost lives, disabilities, and lost work days. Injuries and fatalities to roof bolter personnel usually result from:

- Traveling inby roof support.
- Improper hand/body positioning when setting up or installing roof bolts.
- Failure to follow the requirements of approved roof control plan.
- Inadequate/improper testing and examination of the mine roof.
- Failure to use proper tools and equipment when scaling roof or ribs.
- Improper lifting techniques when handling materials and performing maintenance or repair.
- Failure to use personal protective equipment.

To prevent these types of accidents, roof bolter personnel should:

- ✓ Never travel inby roof support except to install temporary supports.
- ✓ Always properly space temporary supports from two permanent supports.
- ✓ Avoid pinch points, especially near the boom, ATRS, and canopy. Avoid hand placement on rotating drill steel or body positioning between ribs and equipment.
- ✓ Know and follow the provisions of the approved roof control plan.
- ✓ Always properly test the mine roof and installed supports. Notify foreman and other miners of any observed hazardous conditions. Make sure the area has been properly examined by certified personnel before entering.
- ✓ Always use proper tools and equipment for the job to be done. Use proper length bar when scaling roof and rib.
- ✓ Use proper lifting techniques. Don't attempt to lift too much weight. Get assistance when needed.
- ✓ Use personal protective equipment.

INBY IS OUT!

Strive Flame Alive

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
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