

Roof and Rib Safety in Coal Mines



Best Practice Series BP-45

INBY IS OUT!

Roof falls are a leading cause of mine fatalities. Most roof and rib accidents have occurred from:

- Miners traveling inby support.
- Inadequate or improper roof/rib examinations.
- Not following approved roof control plans.
- Improper body/hand positioning.
- Failure to communicate with other miners and mine management when adverse roof/rib conditions are found.
- Using improper tools and equipment to correct adverse roof conditions.

To prevent roof/rib accidents, miners should:

- ✓ Never go inby support for any reason.
- ✓ Be aware of roof and rib conditions—examine roof and ribs wherever they work or travel.
- ✓ Know their approved roof control plan and follow it—all the time.
- ✓ Make sure they are in a safe position before energizing or moving their machinery.
- ✓ Communicate unusual conditions to other miners and mine management.
- ✓ Use proper equipment when correcting adverse roof conditions.

Survive Flame Alive

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
Visit our Web site at www.msha.gov

August 2000