

Coal Mine Longwall Section Employees



Best Practice Series BP-46

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

Longwall mining is on the increase, and longwall accidents are increasing as well. Ignitions and explosions have occurred, as well as other serious accidents.

Causes of accidents on longwall sections include:

- Not properly using and maintaining personal protective equipment.
- Failure to adequately examine work areas and equipment.
- Not ensuring that all ventilation controls are in place and being maintained, including curtains and water sprays.
- Methane monitors not properly operating or calibrated.
- Equipment not maintained or properly operating.
- Lack of knowledge and failure to follow ventilation plan requirements.
- Lack of knowledge or failure to follow approved emergency firefighting and evacuation plans.
- Failure to adequately communicate with other miners.
- Insufficient cleanup and rock dusting.
- Not taking proper gas checks during welding operations.

To prevent these types of accidents, miners should:

- ✓ Use and know how to use all personal protective equipment including SCSSRs, hearing and respiratory protective devices, and safety gloves.
- ✓ Install, repair, or replace ventilation controls as needed or required.
- ✓ Make sure their work area and equipment have been examined, not only by themselves, but by a certified person.
- ✓ Regularly calibrate and check methane monitors to ensure proper function.
- ✓ Keep equipment well maintained, free of combustibles, and working properly, including water sprays, bits, and guards.
- ✓ Know and follow all ventilation plan requirements. Make sure required air current volume and velocity are complied with.
- ✓ Know the mine's firefighting and evacuation plans and be familiar with the mine's escapeway.
- ✓ Communicate with other workers on the section. Use warning devices on equipment and use reflective material. Report any unusual, or hazardous, condition to mine management.
- ✓ Follow the mine's clean-up program. Thoroughly rock dust the mine floor, roof, and ribs.

Arise Flame Arise

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