Protection for Production

Most coal mined today continues to be produced by continuous miners and loading machines, and the miners who operate them.

Causes of accidents to these occupations 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.
- Methane monitors not properly operating or calibrated.
- Equipment not maintained or properly operating.
- Lack of knowledge and failure to follow approved ventilation/roof control plan requirements.
- Lack of knowledge and failure to follow approved emergency firefighting and evacuation plans.
- Failure to adequately communicate with other miners.
- Insufficient cleanup and rock dusting.
- Unsafe body/hand positioning.
- Traveling under unsupported roof.

To prevent these types of accidents, miners should:

- Use and know how to use all personal protective devices, including SCSRs, safety glasses, and hearing and respiratory protective devices.
Make sure their work area and equipment have been adequately examined, not only by themselves, but by certified persons.

Install, repair, or replace ventilation controls, particularly check curtains and line brattice, as needed or required.

Regularly calibrate and check methane monitors to ensure proper function.

Know and follow all ventilation/roof control plan requirements. Make sure air current volume and velocity are complied with.

Keep equipment well-maintained, free of combustible materials, and working properly, including water sprays, bits, and scrubbers (if installed).

Know the mine’s firefighting and evacuation plans and be familiar with the mine’s escape-ways.

Communicate with other workers on the section. Use warning devices on equipment and use reflective materials. Report any unusual or hazardous conditions to mine management.

Follow the mine’s clean-up program. Thoroughly rock dust the mine floor, roof, and ribs.

Stay clear of loading boom and cuttinghead. Miners should keep their body and hands inside the operations compartment, if provided. When tramming, avoid pinch points.

Never travel inby or under unsupported roof, except to install additional support.

Arrive Home Alive

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

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