

Timberman/ Miner



Best Practice Series BP-63

In Pennsylvania the anthracite industry experienced fatalities while workers were installing either roof or rib supports.

To prevent yourself from becoming the next statistic:

- After blasting, test the top rock, bottom rock, and high side rib, and scale loose material before proceeding.
- Know your roof and rib control plan requirements, and install additional support where needed.
- Take a minute or two to observe the area to be supported. Look for cracks or other indications of faults present.
- Prepare, in advance whenever possible, a list of the materials needed.
- When installed supports indicate excessive loading, install additional support/relief timber from outby, advancing toward the area needing supports.
- High side ribs in moderate to steep pitching veins of free running coal must be blocked solid above the lining. Do not use wooden pallets!

Arrive Home Alive

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

March 2002

