Communications during a mine emergency are a critical part of safe fire fighting and evacuation activities. A successful evacuation or fire fighting operation is dependent on the quality and timeliness of the information that is communicated. The sooner miners are notified of a problem, the greater the chance of a successful fire fighting effort, or a successful evacuation. **TIME IS NEVER YOUR FRIEND** during a mine fire, or other mine emergency; however, hasty response based on incomplete or inaccurate information can lead to avoidable injuries or fatalities.

**LOCATIONS**

- Working Sections
- Belt Drives
- Strategic Locations

- **ALWAYS** provide prompt, accurate information to the surface regarding emergency situations.
- **ALWAYS** promptly follow the instructions of the designated responsible person.
- **ALWAYS** consider the use of personal communication devices that could provide key mine personnel early warning in the event of a fire or emergency situation.
- **ALWAYS** consider optional forms of remote communication such as interlocking mine power or main belt operation with the main mine fans.
- **NEVER** disregard or take lightly reports of a mine fire.
- **NEVER** assume anything has been completed during an emergency. **ASK FIRST!**
- **NEVER** attempt to respond to an emergency situation without first getting instructions from the designated responsible person.
A fire rekindled following a roof fall in the gob. The longwall area and eventually the mine was sealed. All miners were successfully evacuated through the use of Personal Emergency Device (PED) System.

Several miners conducted an unplanned response to what they mistakenly thought was a fire on another section, rather than evacuating the mine. In fact, an explosion had occurred that had destroyed critical ventilation controls. Because of the destroyed ventilation controls, a second explosion occurred that killed the responding miners.