

Safety Alert

Near Miss—Dozer Entrapment

On October 10, 2024, a bulldozer fell into a feeder when a bridged coal pile collapsed, engulfing the bulldozer and trapping the operator inside the cab. Emergency response efforts were swift and organized, resulting in the successful rescue of the operator. The bulldozer was equipped with high-strength glass, oxygen bottles, and a remote shut-off for the feeder, all of which contributed to the successful rescue of the entrapped operator. This near miss event highlights the importance of how proactive safety measures can help prevent fatalities.



A miner and bulldozer became entrapped when a bridged coal pile collapsed.



High-strength glass and oxygen bottles contributed to the successful rescue of the entrapped operator.

Best Practices

- **Maintain Stability.** Don't operate equipment directly over feeders and stay away from draw holes.
- **Use remotely operated dozers where available** when working on surge piles.
- **Stock equipment cabs with safety equipment.** Include emergency oxygen, CO₂ scrubbers, and remote shut offs, and ensure all safety devices are properly maintained.
- **Provide training for miners** on recognizing hazards and responding to emergency situations.
- **Install high-strength glass** certified for at least 40 psi with a frame and supports designed to withstand the added loading of entrapment conditions.
- **Always wear seatbelts** when operating mobile equipment to ensure safety in case of sudden impacts or entrapments.
- **Use spotters to assist operators** working in potentially unstable environments.
- **Maintain clear communication** during emergency response efforts.

Report accidents and hazardous conditions: 1-800-746-1553

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