

Fatality Alert

MINE FATALITY – On January 7, 2022, a 35 year-old continuous mining machine (CMM) operator was fatally injured when he was pinned between the remote controlled CMM and the coal rib.



Best Practices

- **Operate equipment from a safe location.** Stay out of “Red Zone” areas including pinch points, the CMM turning radius, and areas close to the ribs.
- **Maintain proximity detection systems (PDS)** in the approved operating condition.
- **Perform the manufacturer’s recommended static and dynamic tests** to assure the PDS is functioning properly. Verify that the shutdown zones are at sufficient distances to stop the CMM before contacting a miner.
- **Wear miner wearable components** in accordance with PDS manufacturer’s recommendations so warning lights and sounds can be seen and heard.
- **Develop and implement procedures** for tramming, repositioning, cable handling and moving remote controlled CMMs safely.
- **Train miners on the function of PDS.**

This is the second fatality reported in 2022, and the first classified as “Machinery.”

The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data only and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.

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

[msha.gov](https://www.msha.gov) | askmsha@dol.gov | [@MSHA_DOL](https://twitter.com/MSHA_DOL)