

2017 Preventive Roof/Rib Outreach Program Continuous Mining Machine Operator Safety!

Points to Remember

Since January 1, 2013, there have been five continuous mining machine operators killed as a result of roof and/or rib falls or coal bursts.

Of these five fatalities, two were the result of coal bursts, two were the result of rib falls, and one was the result of a roof fall.

Rock brows (rock layers above the coal seam) were present in both of the rib falls.

An additional 83 continuous mining machine operators were injured as a result of roof and rib falls during the 2013-2016 time period. Of these injuries, 21 were the result of rib falls.

Closely monitor coal rib deterioration for loose rock brows which may occur after mining.

The risk of a rib fall injury increases substantially as mining height increases.

Rib bolts provide the best protection against rib falls and are most effective when installed on cycle and in a consistent pattern.

The remaining 62 injuries were the result of roof falls where rocks fell between supports.

All of these injuries and fatalities occurred while the continuous mining machine operators were under supported roof.

Pre-shift and on-shift examinations should identify adverse roof and/or rib conditions, and these hazards should be corrected or controlled before work commences.

Adverse roof and/or rib conditions that can't be immediately corrected should be reported to management.

