

# 2017 Preventive Roof/Rib Outreach Program

## Continuous Mining Machine Operator Safety!

Since January 1, 2013, there have been five continuous mining machine operators killed and an additional 83 injured as a result of roof and/or rib falls or coal bursts.

### Ways to lessen the hazards include:

- Communicate with the foreman and other miners when adverse roof and/or rib conditions are observed.
- Maintain a map of geological features and unstable conditions in order to develop the best mining plan to address the adverse conditions that may be present.
- Follow the approved roof control plan, but remember that the plan contains the minimum support system for controlling the roof. Changing conditions may require installation of supplemental support.
- Use proper skin control, such as straps, pizza pans or screen wire mesh, where loose roof and/or ribs may be encountered.
- Install rib bolts because they provide the best protection against rib falls.
- Keep your mind on the task being performed—avoid distractions.
- Conduct thorough examinations and watch for changing roof and/or rib conditions.
- Make available the proper equipment and support materials for correcting adverse roof and rib conditions.
- Monitor roof fall hazards, accidents, and injuries to evaluate the adequacy of the roof control plan.
- Revise the roof control plan when conditions indicate that it is not adequate.
- Ensure pillar dimensions and mining methods are suitable for the conditions and the roof and rib control methods are adequate for the depth of cover.



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