

MSHA DULUTH DISTRICT

STONE MINE PILLAR COLLAPSE SEMINAR

December 16, 2021 8:00am - 12:00pm (CT)

*Four massive pillar collapses have occurred
in limestone mines since October 2020*



Air Blast From Massive Pillar Collapse

Since October 2020, four massive pillar collapses have occurred in limestone mines. Each was accompanied by a powerful airblast and the formation of a large surface sinkhole. Fortunately they did not result in any injuries. In 2015, three miners were seriously injured by an airblast from a fifth pillar collapse.

All of these collapses involved tall, slender pillars in benched areas. Four were in “legacy” areas that had been mined many years ago.

At this seminar, MSHA Technical Support’s Roof Control Division will be providing information to raise awareness of these collapse events. They will also present ways to assess and mitigate the risks associated with a massive collapses in both active workings and legacy areas.

Presentation topics:

- 1) Overview of recent limestone pillar collapse events
- 2) Limestone pillar design using the NIOSH S-Pillar program
- 3) Risk Analysis for limestone pillar collapse
- 4) Investigation and analysis of airblast risk from pillar collapse

**The Seminar will be presented remotely via Microsoft TEAMS.
A certificate for four (4) Professional Development Hours (PDHs) will be provided to participants. Please register at least 3 business days prior to the seminar to receive the meeting invitation.**

To Register or Questions, email: PillarInitiative@dol.gov

When registering, please provide your full name, company or organization, phone number, and the date of the seminar you would like to attend.

For more information, visit www.msha.gov/PillarInitiative

