

DISTRICT 2 – COAL MINE NEAR MISS

Pinned Victim
Location



Mining Height:
50 Inches

On September 2, 2011, a mobile bridge conveyor (MBC) operator sustained serious injuries while exiting the operator's compartment of his MBC. The continuous miner and three MBC's of the continuous haulage system were backing out of a completed cut when the #2 MBC ran over the wash-down hose pulling it apart. The operator was being sprayed with the water and as he abruptly exited the operator's compartment, #3 MBC continued to tram out of the cut pushing the #2 MBC and spinning the machine. When the #3 MBC operator felt tram resistance on the machine he stopped and panicked out shutting the haulage system down. The #2 MBC operator was discovered pinned between the rib and back post of the canopy. The miner suffered 3 broken ribs, a broken bone in his neck, and a bruised rib.

Best Practices

- Installation of a position occupied (dead man) switch. This switch de-energizes the tramming circuit of the entire system, not just a single section, when an operator is out of the cab. Common places to install dead man switches include the seat, arm rest, or cab door where the entire system's tramming circuit remains de-energized until the dead man switch is reactivated upon the return of the operator to the cab.
- Adequate training