



Southern WV Safety Alert

The Coal Mining Industry has experienced near misses, serious personal injuries and fatalities involving remote control continuous mining machines. Although existing State and MSHA approved roof control plans and State laws, prohibit miners from positioning themselves in an unsafe location near an energized remote control continuous mining machine, these serious incidents continue to occur.

The following safety precautions will reduce risks and improve miner safety when working around continuous mining machines:

- Remote control boxes that have safeguards against accidental tram initiation, should be used.
- Test the emergency stop and operational controls to ensure proper functioning before placing the continuous mining machine in operation.
- Miners shall not be positioned alongside the continuous miner, during any movement of the continuous mining machine, from place-to-place or repositioning.
- The power must be de-energized prior to servicing or performing maintenance.
- The continuous mining machine operator shall apply the following safe work procedures when performing tasks such as taking methane examinations, extending line curtain, tending cable, etc.:
 - De-energize the continuous mining machine by turning the pump motor off.
 - Unplug the remote control module from the power source (cap light battery).
 - Take the remote control module off and set it on the continuous mining machine or some stable item.