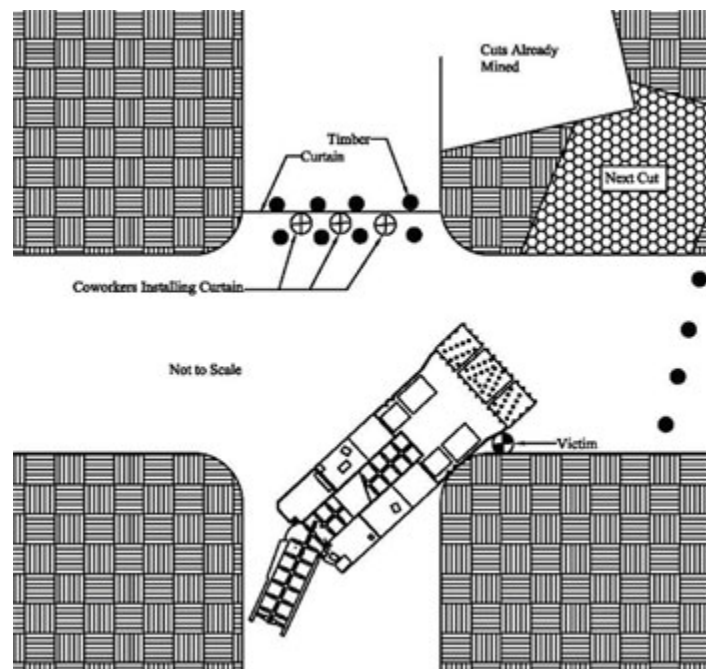




Fatality #27 - October 22, 2003
Machinery - Underground - Virginia
Paramont Coal Company Virginia, LLC
Vicc No 7 Mine

COAL MINE FATALITY - On October 22, 2003, at approximately 10:00 a.m., a 41-year-old continuous mining machine operator was fatally injured when he was pinched between the continuous mining machine and the coal rib. The victim was positioning the machine by remote control for an end-cut while second mining a coal pillar. As the continuous mining machine was being trammed toward the next cut, it pivoted to the right; crushing the victim between the cutting head and the rib of the outby coal pillar.



Best Practices

- Ensure everyone is outside the machine's turning radius and in a safe location when starting and moving such equipment.
- Stop equipment while hanging or positioning trailing cables.
- Ensure that continuous mining machine operators lower the conveyor boom and ripper head, as far as possible, prior to moving the machine.
- Ensure that a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is in place before tramping the remote controlled continuous miner to another entry or crosscut.
- Avoid pinch points between the rib and machinery during tramping operations.

This is the 27th fatality reported in calendar year 2003 in the coal mining industry. As of the accident date in 2002, there were 23 fatalities reported in the coal mining industry. This is the 3rd fatality classified as Underground Machinery in 2003. At this time in 2002, there were 2 fatalities classified as Underground Machinery.