

MSHA Job Safety Tips

TIMBERMAN/MINER

The Pennsylvania anthracite industry saw 1995 as its worst year of the last decade for fatal injuries and accidents.

From 1993-1995, four miners died while installing either roof or rib supports. Three of the miners were in the process of installing (or preparing to install) relief timber when they were trapped and suffocated.

Additionally, two miners were injured and only a save by the canopy on a continuous miner prevented another fatality.

To prevent yourself from becoming the next statistic:

- After blasting, test the top rock, bottom rock and high side rib and scale loose material before proceeding.
- Know your roof and rib control plan requirements and install additional support where needed.
- Take a minute or two to observe the area to be supported. Look for cracks or other indications of faults present.
- Prepare, in advance whenever possible, a list of the materials needed.
- When installed supports indicate excessive loading, install additional support/relief timber, from outby, advancing toward the area needing supports.
- High side ribs in moderate to steep pitching veins of free running coal must be blocked solid above the lining. Do not use wooden pallets!

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration