

# MSHA Accident Alert



Recently, a dozer operator, while preparing to push coal into a feeder, drove the dozer into the feeder entrance. The operator was thrown through the windshield. The operator was not wearing a seatbelt and received serious injuries.

## Mine Operator Best Practices

### Mine Operators SHOULD PROVIDE:

- **Equipment cabs strong enough to resist burial pressures or use remote control equipment. High strength windows may be provided by chemically-strengthened glass or the use of polycarbonate.**
- **SCSR's, two-way communications, light sticks, and devices to remotely shut down the stackers and feeders from the cab of every machine operating above feeders.**
- **Markers suspended above each feeder to identify the location of each feeder draw point or install GPS units on equipment to identify the locations of the feeders.**
- **Visual indicators of which feeder(s) are active.**
- **A chart showing how the diameter of the drawhole increases with pile height, for the typical angle of withdrawal of the coal, to provide operators with guidance on how far back from the feeder they should stay when pushing to the drawhole.**
- **Gates on feeders – or otherwise ensure that coal cannot discharge when a feeder is not activated.**
- **The feeder operator with the capability to directly observe the conditions and activities on top of the pile (e.g., closed circuit TV).**
- **A system to detect cavities and immediately warn all affected parties (e.g., warning lights over feeders). Take measures to ensure that no one is exposed to the hazard.**
- **Safe procedures to eliminate a cavity or rescue an operator trapped in a cavity, by excavating material at a safe distance off to the side of the cavity and working toward the cavity.**
- **For additional information, go to the following link:  
[http://www.msha.gov/Accident\\_Prevention/newtechnologies/initiatives/surgepile/surgepile.htm](http://www.msha.gov/Accident_Prevention/newtechnologies/initiatives/surgepile/surgepile.htm)**