

DISTRICT 2 – COAL MINE NEAR MISS



Hook impaled foreman

NEVER THINK JUST BECAUSE THE ROOF IS SUPPORTED YOU ARE SAFE

On September 9, 2009 while re-bolting a bad area of a bolted face, using a full face miner, a section foreman, who was standing between the miner operator and the roof bolter operator (under fully supported roof), was struck by a 5' by 5' by 2½' rock that fell from between the installed straps, impaling him on a 5/8" diameter hook.

A meeting was held with the machine manufacturing company on what could be done to create two different modes for the ATRS jack. One pressure for mining and a lesser pressure for bolting. Bolting pressure should be approximately 500 PSI.

Best Practices

- Safety talks should be given to miners informing them of the near miss, emphasizing the importance of roof examinations.
- Conduct a thorough visual examination of the roof, face, and ribs immediately before any work or travel is started in an area and thereafter as conditions warrant.
- Assess and examine the adequacy of roof control systems and mining layout for local geology. Know and follow the approved roof control plan.
- Take additional measures to protect persons if unusual hazards are encountered.