

Underground Powered Haulage Safety for Coal Mines

Best Practice Series
BP-44



DON'T BE HAULED OUT!

Powered haulage accidents continue to be a leading cause of mine fatalities. Most powered haulage accidents occur as a result of:

- Operating unsafe equipment.
- Not properly maintaining equipment.
- Unsafe operation of mobile equipment.
- Not properly blocking machinery/equipment in a raised position when performing maintenance.
- Impaired visibility of operators of mobile equipment.
- Improper hand/body positioning.
- Inadequate training of equipment operators.

To avoid powered haulage accidents, miners should:

- ✓ Never operate unsafe equipment. Pay particular attention to brakes, panic bars, controls, and steering. Report unsafe conditions to mine management.
- ✓ Keep equipment clean. Make sure all lighting systems, warning devices, and permissibility requirements are maintained.

- ✓ Always face the direction of travel and use speeds consistent with roadway conditions. Use warning devices.
- ✓ Always solidly block machinery that is in a raised position when performing maintenance.
- ✓ Always de-energize equipment before performing maintenance.
- ✓ Use lights in direction of travel. Stop before proceeding through run-through check curtains. Be alert to the presence of others in travelways. Use reflective material. Maintain communications.
- ✓ Keep hands and body in operator compartment. Avoid pinch points. Be aware of changes in clearance.
- ✓ Keep their training updated. Know their equipment's capabilities and limitations.
- ✓ Not restrict visibility by overloading haulage equipment.

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