

MSHA Safety Alert

Supervisor Fatalities Due To Falls of Roof, Rib or Face

On February 23, 2017, a foreman on the active mining section was struck by a loose rock that fell out from between installed roof bolts. The victim, who had remained hospitalized since the accident, died from his injuries on April 6, 2017. Since June 27, 2011, nine supervisors have been killed as a result of falls of roof, rib or face. During this time period these supervisor fatalities accounted for 45% of all deaths arising from these types of accidents, which can be reduced if not eliminated when miners use the following Best Practices as a guide.



BEST PRACTICES

- Know and follow the approved roof control plan.
- Make frequent examinations and be alert to changing conditions that may affect roof or rib conditions.
- Scale loose roof or ribs.
- Use test holes to check for cracks and other hazards above the anchorage of the roof bolts.
- Inform mine management and other miners about unusual roof or rib conditions.
- Install additional roof and/or rib support when adverse conditions are encountered or anticipated.
- Use supplemental support for roof skin control such as screen, steel straps, header boards or larger roof bolt plates.
- Never travel under unsupported roof.



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