

Southern WV Accident Alert



A roof bolting machine operator was fatally injured in a rib roll accident while installing roof bolts near the active face. The section was developing under approximately 1,000 feet of cover. Mining had occurred in a coal seam approximately 65 feet above this mine creating additional pressure on the coal ribs. Mining height on the section averaged 8 1/2 feet.



Preventive Practices:

- √ Examine roof and ribs frequently during work assignments.
- √ Never assume a rib is safe because it has been scaled or cut down.
- √ Where needed, active rib supports (bolts) should be installed instead of passive supports (posts or jacks).
- √ Be aware of overmining, undermining, and deep cover conditions and adjust mining and roof/rib supports accordingly.