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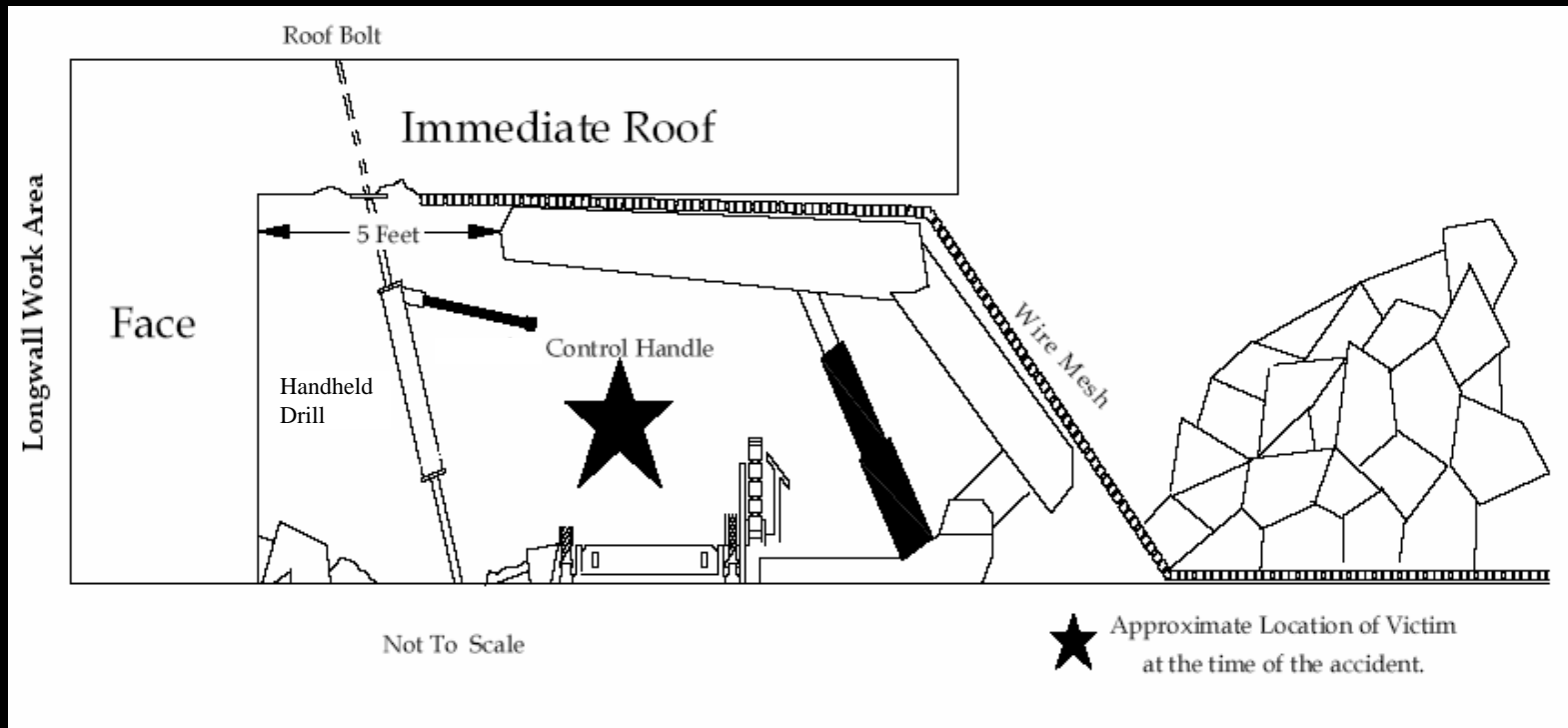
GENERAL INFORMATION

Coal Mine Fatal Accident 2006-24



Operator:	Jim Walter Resources, Inc.
Mine:	No. 4 Mine
Accident Date:	March 29, 2006
Classification:	Fall of Roof
Location:	Dist. 11, Tuscaloosa County, AL
Mine Type:	Underground Coal Mine
Employment:	454
Production:	9,700 Tons/Day

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION



At approximately 11:25 a.m. on March 29, 2006, a miner received injuries that resulted in his death on April 10, 2006. The victim was installing roof bolts between the shield tips and the longwall face in preparation for moving the longwall mining equipment. The victim was located at the outer edge of a shield tip while preparing to drill, when a piece of roof rock fell. He was hit by the rock (measuring 4-inches x 12-inches x 24-inches), which caused him to fall, striking his head against the pan-line.

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Causal Factor: The mine operator's existing procedures for installing roof bolts on the longwall face with handheld drills did not include provisions for safe positioning of the drill operator.

Corrective Action: The mine operator submitted and the district has approved a supplement to the Approved Roof Control Plan that reads as follows:

"The pin men will position their drill perpendicular to the faceline while standing under a shield canopy to install their first pins in all areas where pinning will be started in the mesh cycle."

"The pin men will position themselves adjacent to previously installed bolts as they progressively pin the faceline in all areas of pinning."

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

§104(a) Citation No. 7684534 Part 30 75.202(a): Issued to Jim Walter Resources, Inc. No. 4 Mine.

The operator failed to support or otherwise control the roof to protect persons from hazards related to falls of the roof on the N-13 Longwall Panel. On March 29, 2006, an area of unsupported roof fell and led to a fatal injury of a miner on April 10, 2006.

BEST PRACTICES

- Examine the roof, face and ribs, including sound and vibrations tests, during pre-shift examinations, immediately before any work is started, and periodically as conditions warrant.
- Remain alert for changing roof conditions.
- Ensure that roof bolting equipment and procedures provide a safe and practical means for miners to work from beneath shield canopies.
- Remove slipping and tripping hazards from the work area before any other work is performed.