

*This presentation is for illustrative and **general** educational purposes only and is not intended to substitute for the official MSHA Investigation Report analysis nor is it intended to provide the sole foundation, if any, for any related enforcement actions.*

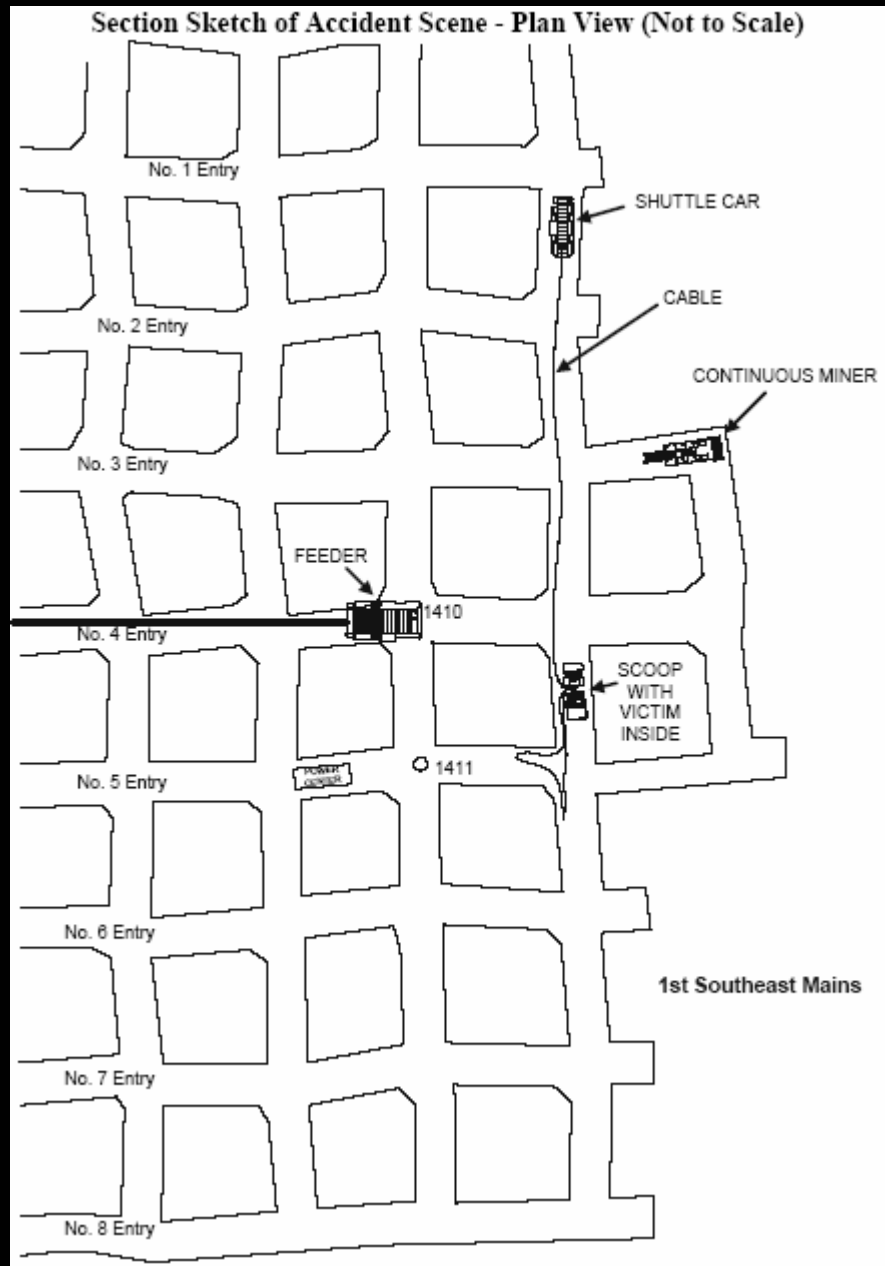
GENERAL INFORMATION

Coal Mine Fatal Accident 2006-44



| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Operator: | McCoy Elkhorn Coal Corp. |
| Mine: | No. 7 Mine |
| Accident Date: | November 4, 2006 |
| Classification: | Powered Haulage |
| Location: | Dist. 6, Pike County, Kentucky |
| Mine Type: | Underground Coal Mine |
| Employment: | 104 |
| Production: | 8,000 Tons/Day |

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION



On November 4, 2006, a 44-year old section foreman with 25 years of mining experience and two years at this mine, was fatally injured in a powered haulage accident.

The victim was using a battery powered scoop to pull a shuttle car cable toward the power center. The plug end of the cable had been wrapped around the canopy post of the scoop to facilitate pulling. The scoop ran over the cable, which became lodged between the scoop tire and the mine floor. The end of the cable unwound from the canopy post and the plug struck the victim in the head resulting in fatal injuries.

ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Root Cause: Mine management did not establish and enforce a safe procedure for pulling cables with mobile equipment. The practice of wrapping the cable around the post of the canopy in close proximity to the scoop operator was hazardous.

Corrective Action: The mine operator developed a policy for pulling cables with mobile equipment which specifies that ropes or straps designed for that purpose will be used and prohibits attaching the ropes or straps to the decks or canopies of equipment. All persons working at this mine were given additional training covering the cable pulling policy.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

§314(b) Safeguard, was issued to McCoy Elkhorn Coal Corp.

"A fatal powered haulage accident has occurred at this mine. The victim was using a scoop, whose tag read "S&S Model 488" to pull a shuttle car cable across the working section. The scoop ran over the cable, which became lodged between the scoop tire and the mine floor. The end of the cable unwound from the canopy post and the plug struck the victim resulting in fatal injuries.

This is a Notice to provide safeguard(s) requiring that all cables being pulled by mobile equipment be attached to the equipment using ropes or straps designed for that purpose and to the opposite end of the equipment's direction of travel. At no time will the ropes or straps be attached to the decks or canopies of equipment. Equipment will not pull cables in one direction and then reverse direction of travel without re-attaching the rope or strap to the opposite end of the equipment.

BEST PRACTICES

- Ensure that properly designed ropes or slings are used to move cables.
- Do not attach cables to the decks or canopy of equipment being used to pull them.
- Attach cables to be pulled to the end of the equipment opposite to the direction of travel. Re-attach to the other end if the direction of travel is reversed.
- Develop processes whereby managers and miners work together to assess and manage the risks associated with recurring tasks. (SMART)
<http://www.msha.gov/FocusOn/OutReach2005/Outreach2005.asp>