



Fatality #38 - May 4, 2006
(Jurisdiction determined 09/05/06)
Electrical – Surface – Virginia
Consolidation Coal Company – Buchanan Mine #1

COAL MINE FATALITY - On Thursday, May 4, 2006, a 40 year old contractor with 2 1/2 years of experience was electrocuted while clearing brush from the right-of-way of a 12,470 VAC transmission line. The miner touched a loose guy wire causing it to contact an energized conductor on the pole. There was no insulator, ground, or proper anchor at ground level preventing the guy wire from becoming energized.



Best Practices

- Connect guy wires securely to the system ground, and/or properly install insulators to protect miners in the event of a breakage.
- Anchor guy wires where they will not be contacted by vehicles and equipment or be disturbed by maintenance personnel.
- Examine areas surrounding electrical installations for potential hazards before beginning any work, including trimming weeds and brush.
- Mark guy wire anchor points for easy identification.

This is the 38th fatality reported during calendar year 2006 in the coal mining industry. As of May 4th in 2005, there were four fatalities reported in coal mining. This is the first fatality classified as Electrical in 2006. There were no electrical fatalities at this time in 2005.