



**Fatalities #5 & #6 - April 17, 2007**  
**Fall of Highwall - Surface - Maryland**  
**Tri-Star Mining Inc - Job #3**

**COAL MINE FATALITY** - On Tuesday, April 17, 2007, a 51-year old excavator operator and a 38-year old bulldozer operator, with 15 years and 2 years of mining experience respectively, were fatally injured when a highwall failed. Both miners were operating equipment beneath the highwall measuring approximately 275 feet high, 240 feet wide, and 90 feet deep. The work was being performed near old underground mine works.



**Best Practices**

- Develop ground control plans that specify remedial measures for adverse conditions such as those presented by old underground mines.
- Do not work near dangerous highwalls or banks and be aware of changing highwall conditions.
- Train examiners to recognize adverse conditions and environmental factors that can decrease stability.
- Involve front line supervisors when developing mining plans and apply prudent engineering principles to address normal and adverse conditions.

These are the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> fatalities reported during calendar year 2007 in the coal mining industry. As of this date in 2006, there were 24 fatalities reported in coal mining. This is the first fatality classified as Fall of Face, Rib, or Highwall in 2007. At this time in 2006, there were two fatalities in this classification.