

COAL MINE FATALITY – On Monday, March 16, 2015, a 34-year-old section foreman with 10 years of mining experience was killed when a coal/rock rib approximately 90 inches long, 45 inches high, and 15 to 18 inches thick fell and pinned him against the side of a shuttle car.



BEST PRACTICES

- Be aware of potential hazards at all times when working or traveling near ribs.
- Avoid areas of close clearance between ribs and equipment.
- Know and follow the approved roof control plan and provide additional support when cracks or other abnormalities are detected. Remember, the approved roof control plan contains minimum requirements.
- Install rib bolts on cycle and in a consistent pattern for the best protection against rib falls.
- Train all miners to conduct thorough examinations of the roof, face, and ribs where persons will be working and traveling. Correct all hazardous conditions before allowing persons to work or travel in such areas.
- Be alert for changing conditions. Report abnormal roof or rib conditions to mine management.
- Adequately support or scale any loose roof or rib material from a safe location. Use a bar of suitable length and design when scaling.

- Danger off hazardous areas until appropriate corrective measures can be taken.

Additional information on preventing these types of accidents can be found on the MSHA website.

This is the fourth fatality reported in calendar year 2015 in the coal mining industry and it is the second fatality classified as Fall of Face/Rib/Highwall. As of this day in 2014, there were two fatalities reported in the coal mining industry. At this time in 2014, there were no fatalities in this classification.