



SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN



At approximately 4:45 A.M. on March 13, 2015 a serious personal injury occurred on a retreat mining section of an underground mine located in Dickenson County, VA. The victim, who was working as a contractor at this mine, was injured when he was struck by a pin from a hydraulic retriever that was being used to remove a continuous miner from a pillar fall. The threaded pin broke in a 51 millimeter clevis while the retriever was under pressure and struck the injured person in the left shoulder and collar bone area. The clevis and link bars had been covered with ventilation curtains prior to pulling. Four (4) clevises and one (1) link bar was broken prior to the accident. The victim sustained bruising to his left shoulder and collar bone area and also bruising to his lung with the development of an air pocket.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To assure that you have a safe work environment, the following recommendations may help prevent similar incidents from occurring.

- **Only the minimum amount of employees needed for retrieval work should be allowed in the area.**
- Clevises and link bars should be inspected thoroughly and defective equipment replaced immediately.
- Precaution should be taken to make sure everyone is in a safe location when pressurized retrieval work is being conducted.

ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM