## Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy





**OMORROW** 

## **Gas Well - Near Miss**

On June 28th, 2016 at approximately 3:30 p.m., DMME was notified that a large boulder dislodged from a surface mine located upslope and traveled an estimated 700 feet before striking a portion of a surface gas well installation. The rock was 9.5 ft. x 9 ft. wide and 4 ft. to 6 ft. high. No injuries were reported as a result of this incident.



## **Safety Key Points:**

- Mining methods must ensure adequate slope stability and provide effective control for dislodged material.
- Examine work areas to identify all possible hazards. Ensure that potential hazards are evaluated and eliminated so tasks can be performed safely.
- Regularly inspect the catch berms to ensure that they are not filled with spoil material. During rainfall events, more frequent examinations will be required.
- Ensure berms are properly constructed. Remember that berms are a safety barrier and should always be properly maintained.
- Regular safety meetings should be conducted with all employees regarding possible hazards that could result from dislodged material.

