

# **SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN**

## **CONTINUOUS MINER OPERATOR PINCH POINT ACCIDENT**



### **CONTINUOUS MINER OPERATOR NEAR MISS**

On December 18, 2006, at approximately 11:35 a.m., a continuous miner operator at a Russell County VA. underground coal mine was injured while operating the continuous miner by remote control using the remote cord.

The injured miner was repositioning the continuous miner to complete the right side of the cut in the #2 entry, when he was caught near the cable handler/standoff and pinched between the machine and the right rib. The injured miner, who was alone, yelled for help. When other miners arrived the injured miner was on his knees, doubled over, facing out of the face and the continuous miner was de-energized. The remote control box had to be removed from between the injured miner's torso and legs in order to energize the continuous miner and move it in order to free the miner from where he was trapped, between the machine and the coal rib.

First aid was administered at the scene, the injured miner was transported via rescue squad vehicle to Honaker VA. and then via Med- Flight to Bristol Regional Medical Center.

Miraculously, the injured miner received only bruised lungs and bruises to various other parts of his body. He was released the following day and is recuperating at home.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- When equipment is in operation or is being trammed, no miner should position himself or be placed in a pinch point between such equipment and the face or ribs of the mine.
- Always face in the same direction as the equipment being trammed by remote control.
- When performing any other tasks, such as moving the machine cable, while tramping a machine by remote control, de-energize the machine and place the remote control box in a safe area to keep from accidentally activating any operational levers or switches.