Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

AZARD LERT IVE OMORROW

ROOF BOLTER OPERATOR SERIOUS ACCIDENT



At approximately 5:00 A.M. on April 24, 2019 a serious personal injury occurred at an underground mine located in Dickenson County. The injured person was a roof drill operator with 13 years of coal mining experience and 10 years as a roof drill operator. He was seriously injured when his left arm was entangled in the rotating steel of the roof drill. The injured persons left arm was severed approximately mid-forearm. At the time of the accident, the injured person was in the process of drilling a hole for a cable bolt.

SAFETY KEYPOINTS:.

- * Do not handle rotating drill steel.
- * Wear proper gloves and remove rings, watches and other jewelry.
- * Avoid wearing loose fitting clothing and materials.
- * Inspect drill steel, extensions and wrenches for jagged edges and burrs prior to using.
- * Always keep hands away from pinch points.
- * Ensure hands and clothing are free from drill steel before rotation is started.
- * Ensure there is proper alignment with drill steel and drill head.

