VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MINES, MINERALS AND ENERGY

HAZARD ALERT LIVE TOMORROW

Near Miss Electrical Shock Safety Alert

On August 22, 2020, at approximately 10:50 a.m., a 32-year old shuttle car operator was moving a 600 VAC trailing cable when he received an electrical shock while a mobile roof support (MRS) unit was being positioned on the 002 section. The MRS was being moved to the No. 3 entry to conduct retreat mining at an underground mine in Dickenson County. While positioned on his knees in wet and muddy floor conditions, the victim grasped the trailing cable with his left hand to move it out of the path of the No. 3 MRS and received the electrical shock from a damaged section of the cable. The victim was heard yelling "It's got me. Get it off. It won't let me go". The foreman and other co-workers rushed to assist the victim and found him rolling on the ground with the cable in his left hand. The section foreman and a co-worker kicked the cable free from the victim's hand. The victim was wearing fiber rubber coated gloves that were wet inside and rubber boots. The potential contact voltage was determined to be 346 VAC. The victim experienced numbness and shaking in his left arm and hand while he was treated during transport to the surface. He was transferred by ambulance to the Dickenson County Community Hospital where he was treated for minor injuries and was released from the hospital later the same day.





- ✓ Increase equipment cable examinations when mine conditions warrant.
- ✓ Damaged cables should be reported and repaired immediately.
- ✓ Employees should wear protective rubber gloves or properly rated electrical gloves and boots when handling energized cables. Hanging cables provides protection and minimizes handling.
- ✓ Shielded cables should be considered for maximum protection against cutting, impact, or abrasion damage and improve ground fault potential.
- ✓ Insulated cable handling hooks should be used for additional protection against electrical shock hazards when handling energized equipment cables.

