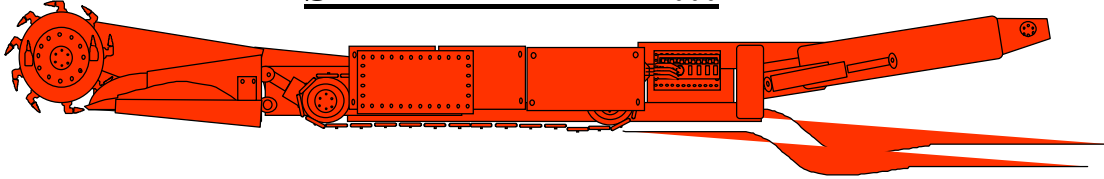


# H AZARD A LERT L IVE T OMORROW

## REMOTE CONTROL MINER SAFETY ALERT!!!



### LOOK OUT FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS – A MACHINE CAN'T

From 1990 through June, 2003, twenty (20) underground fatalities occurred nationwide that involved remote control miners. Four (4) of these fatalities occurred in Virginia coal mines when coal miners were positioned in an unsafe location. Numerous serious accidents and near miss incidents have also occurred recently when the remote box tram controls were accidentally activated while the pump motor was energized.

**REMEMBER:** Never position yourself or allow others to position themselves in an unsafe location while remote miners are in operation or is being trammed.

### SAFETY KEYPOINTS:

- Always test the emergency stop and operational controls to insure proper operation prior to use. Remote control boxes equipped with safeguards to prevent accidental tram activation should be used, when possible.
- Persons shall not be positioned alongside a continuous miner during any movement of the continuous miner such as moving from place-to-place or repositioning, and always observe that **“Red Zones are No Zones”**.
- Other safety precautions should be taken when a person is required to be positioned alongside the continuous miner to perform necessary troubleshooting/testing or adding hydraulic oil while the pump motor is energized.
- Always de-energize power to the continuous miner prior to performing service work or installing ripper-head bits and always comply with the approved roof control plan.
- The continuous miner operator should comply with the following safe work procedures while other tasks including taking gas tests, extending line curtain or positioning the cable are being performed:
  - De-energize the miner by turning off the pump motor;
  - Disconnect the remote control module from the power source or cap light battery;
  - Remove the remote control module from your person and place it on the continuous miner or other suitable location;
  - Never re-energize the continuous miner until all tasks are completed and everyone is positioned in a safe location away from pinch points and haulage equipment.
- Modern technology update: A “proximity control unit” is presently being field tested that automatically de-energizes the miner when any person enters a control zone while the machine is being trammed.

### PLEASE POST “2003”

For additional information or assistance, contact the  
Division of Mines, Big Stone Gap (276) 523-8227  
or Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533

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