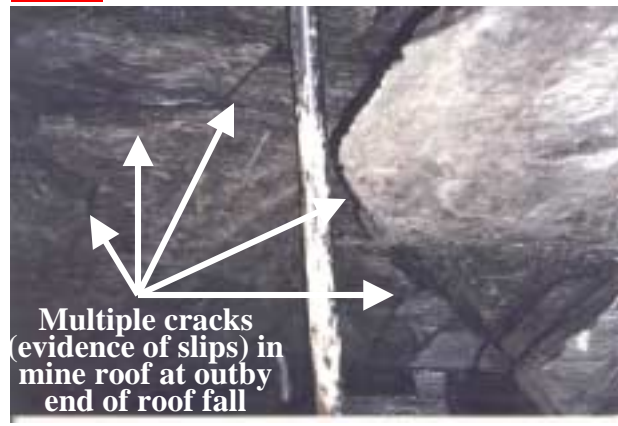


H AZARD A LERT L IVE T OMORROW

ROOF CONTROL – SAFETY ALERT!!

“BE CAREFUL FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY”



The prevention of roof fall accidents and fatalities continue to challenge underground coal mine safety. From 1996 through July 2003, twelve (12) roof fall fatalities have occurred in Virginia with eight (8) occurring under permanently supported roof and three (3) occurring inby permanent roof supports. A continuous miner operator received fatal injuries and the miner helper was entrapped by a large roof fall (slip) in a supported roof area. (photo's above)

REMEMBER: Roof falls cause more serious mining injuries than any other accident classification.

- R**oof failures caused by undetected, horseback type slips resulted in eight roof fall fatalities in Virginia.
- O**ver three-fourths of the roof falls in Virginia have occurred partially in an intersection.
- O**btain all available geological information and technical assistance from the Division of Mines and MSHA when roof conditions are questionable.
- F**ollow the roof control plan and always install adequate roof supports necessary to support the mine roof.
- C**ommunicate changes in the mine roof to all miners and report such conditions to the mine foreman immediately.
- O**utcrop and overburden distances are critical factors to know concerning roof stability. Be familiar with these distances and take necessary safety precautions.
- N**ever assume roof conditions featuring faults, coal streaks, cracks, slips, etc. will remain stable during mining.
- T**hree of the roof fall fatality victims were inby permanent roof supports. **NEVER GO INBY PERMANENT ROOF SUPPORTS!**
- R**oof examinations, evaluations and close observations of adverse roof conditions can help identify potential roof failures.
- O**bserve mine maps to help identify potential roof failure impact zones created by other mines above, below, and adjacent to your mine.
- L**earn to identify potential unstable roof conditions and always take necessary safety precautions.

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

ACCIDENT
REDUCTION PROGRAM

