

SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN

SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY

FALL OF ROOF MATERIAL



On September 25, 2009, at approximately 12:44 p.m., an underground serious accident occurred while a longwall jack operator was operating shields. The shear was in operation nearby when the victim turned away from the face-line to advance the adjacent shield using shield controls. A section of roof rock measuring 70 inches long, 35 inches wide and 12 inches thick suddenly collapsed from the face striking the victim's right hand as it was positioned on the handrail of the face conveyor. Although gloves were being worn, the force of the impact caused crushing hand injuries including multiple fractures of three fingers and an arterial laceration in the palm of the hand, resulting in tendon and ligament damage. The minimum weight of the rock was approximately 2,124 lbs with a force impact of 83,128 lbs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Employees should always use caution during mining operations and be aware of their body / limb position at all times, avoiding potential pinch points. Avoid positioning hands and arms where falling roof or rib potential exists.
- Miners' gloves should be worn that are abrasion, cut and impact resistant. The style of glove should not be altered in ways that diminish the protection provided by the glove.
- Reduce the severity of potential risks and exposure by choosing appropriate glove styles i.e. gloves with index finger and thumb half-finger protection for remote control devices, leather gloves and forearm protection for roof bolting operations, welders gloves for energizing circuit breakers, etc.

ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM