



# SAFETY ALERT

## Operator crushed between longwall roof support and AFC pan line

### INCIDENT

A shearer operator was crushed between the front of a longwall chock and the AFC pan line. He suffered multiple fractures of the pelvis and internal injuries.

### CIRCUMSTANCES

The shearer operator said he was kicking spilled coal from the walkway when he slipped and fell in front of the chock. The chock advanced and crushed him against the AFC pan line. The shearer had just completed the 'snake' cut at the tailgate and was returning to the tailgate end.

Chock movement control was automatic, initiated by the shearer as it proceeded along the face. The chock had been primed to move when the operator slipped and fell in front of it. The gap between the front of the chock and the pan line was sufficiently narrow that the potential for a person to receive fatal injuries was high.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Operators of longwall mines should review their work procedures with emphasis on:

- Identification and implementation of hard barriers to prevent access of longwall personnel into hazardous areas
- Safe standing zones for shearer operators for each mining sequence across the face
- Safe access along the face at all times for longwall personnel
- Regular audits to ensure compliance with work procedures.

**NOTE:** Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Alert, and are informed of its content and recommendations. This Safety Alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's notice board.

Signed

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