

SAFETY ALERT



FALL OF COAL AND STONE KILLS MINER

NOTE

This preliminary Safety Alert has been issued to inform the mining industry of a significant event.

INCIDENT

A miner was hit by a fall of coal and stone and later died. A second miner suffered multiple broken bones. The miners were working in an underground coal mine.

CIRCUMSTANCES

Two miners were working on a longwall face. They were shottfiring the floor.

They were blasting the floor so that mining equipment could keep working.

The miners were working in front of the longwall chock supports, under bolted and meshed roof.

While they were preparing for blasting, the coal face next to the miners collapsed. Part of the roof also fell. Both miners were injured, and the miner who died was trapped for a short time.

INVESTIGATION

The Investigation Unit of the Department of Mineral Resources is investigating the accident.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Miners working close to rib coal to assess how stable the rib and roof are. Be aware that a rib fall can lead to a roof fall. Put supports in place.
- Mine Managers to review their support rules, and to identify instances of, and assess risks associated with, unsupported rib coal, whether in roadways, pillar extraction workings or longwall faces. Put in place controls to avoid danger to the safety of employees from unconfined rib and roof strata.
- Mine Managers to review their emergency procedures and their response plans for emergency situations.

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