

SAFETY ALERT



SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS: FOLLOW PROCEDURES

INCIDENT

A miner became confused and had breathing problems when he was using a Draeger BG174 self-contained breathing apparatus.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The miner was a part of a team working in irrespirable air when he became light headed and faint. He alerted a team member who immediately hit the by-pass and cleared the BG174. This helped the miner to breathe clean air and get his bearings. The team then moved on to the fresh air base.

INVESTIGATION

1. The BG174 had been fully tested and passed before use.
2. On return to the station the BG174 was tested. It was working to manufacturer's specifications.
3. The face mask was tested. It was in good order and working to specifications.
4. The team captain completed checks on all team members before entering and leaving the fresh air base.
5. Before putting on the BG174 the miner's lungs and the BG174 were flushed with oxygen.
6. The miner was in good health and followed training procedures.
7. From the miner's statement it was found he had a radio and at times a mentor hooked to his breathing hose clip to keep them dry when walking through water. The extra weight could have pulled the bottom of his face mask away from his face causing him to breathe carbon dioxide.

RECOMMENDATION

Equipment should not be carried on, or attached to breathing tube clips, tubes or straps used to secure face masks or mouth pieces on self-contained breathing apparatus.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Regan'.

R Regan
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SAFETY OPERATIONS