

H AZARD A LERT L IVE T OMORROW

ELECTRICAL SAFETY ALERT!! THE SILENT KILLER



Locking Out and Tagging



Testing Scoop Controller

In 2002 and 2003, eight (8) underground electrical fatalities (6 – underground, 2 – surface) occurred nationwide with two (2) occurring in Virginia underground coal mines. With the recently increasing numbers of electrical related fatalities, serious accidents and near miss incidents occurring both in Virginia and nationally, a renewed focus on electrical safety must be emphasized.

REMEMBER: Use caution around all electrical circuits. Shocks have caused serious personal injuries and can cause sudden death.

SAFETY KEYPOINTS:

- Always ensure that the correct circuit has been de-energized, locked out and tagged prior to performing electrical work, splicing cables or replacing electrical components.
- Never attempt to perform any electrical work on equipment or circuits unless you are certified and properly trained to perform such work.
- Never alter, bypass or shortcut electrical safety devices such as grounding systems, circuit breakers and fuses. Safety devices are designed for both personal and equipment protection.
- Federal law requires that electrical repairmen wear work gloves maintained in good condition (preferably electrical rated) when testing or troubleshooting energized, low and medium voltage cables and circuits. In the past two years, repairmen in other states have received fatal electrical shocks after coming in direct contact with energized circuits while not wearing any type of protective gloves.
- Always conduct thorough weekly underground and monthly surface low and medium voltage equipment examinations to ensure that any electrical shock and other hazards to miners are identified and corrected.
- Always use volt meters that are properly rated for the voltage being tested. Volt meters have exploded when subjected to voltages higher than their rated capacity.

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

