

HAZARD ALERT

ROOF BOLTER OPERATOR SAFETY IN VIRGINIA



USED BY PERMISSION OF JH FLETCHER

- * There were 124 roof bolter operator lost time injuries reported in 2001 and 2002.
- * This represented 33% of all underground lost time injuries.
- * The three highest injury classifications occurring to roof bolter operators were: (1) handling materials - 43; (2) falls of roof, face and ribs – 37; (3) machinery – 24.

REMEMBER: The hands, arms and back are most commonly injured while handling materials.

HANDLING MATERIALS SAFETY TIPS:

- Roof bolter operators have the highest lost time injury rate involving handling materials.
- Wear proper gloves while installing roof bolts. Never wear rubber gloves or leather gloves with rubber palms while installing bolts.
- Inspect material for sharp or jagged edges and heat before handling.
- Use proper lifting techniques and avoid twisting or jerking motions while lifting and carrying loads to prevent back injuries.
- Plan and implement work procedures to maximize equipment use while minimizing personnel being required to lift and carry bolting supplies.

REMEMBER: Most unintentional roof falls occur from July through November. Everyone must be alert to an increase in deteriorating roof conditions during this period.

FALLS OF ROOF, FACE, RIBS SAFETY TIPS:

- Always take sufficient time to conduct thorough roof examinations and evaluations – both visual and sounding the roof.
- Conduct additional roof examinations during second mining, including outby areas. Second mining (pillaring) increases stress in the mine roof which increases the potential and hazards of roof falls.
- Exercise caution when working near roof that has cracks, slips, faults, horsebacks or other roof abnormalities. Provide supplemental support, change mining plan, or take other measures.
- Replace damaged, wide or missing roof supports immediately when observed.
- Never travel under unsupported roof.

REMEMBER: Many machinery accidents result from miners caught between moving parts of a machine or between the machine and other equipment, ribs or roof.

MACHINERY SAFETY TIPS:

- Never alter machinery manufacturer design of safety devices (tram pedals, panic bars, stop switches).
- Take time to recognize and avoid pinch points on rotating/moving machine components.
- Keep hands off the bolter drill steel, ranging arm and boom frame during drilling operations.
- Never place your head or body over the boom frame while the bolter is energized.
- Wear personal protective gear while bolting (safety glasses, leather gloves, hearing protection, respirator).