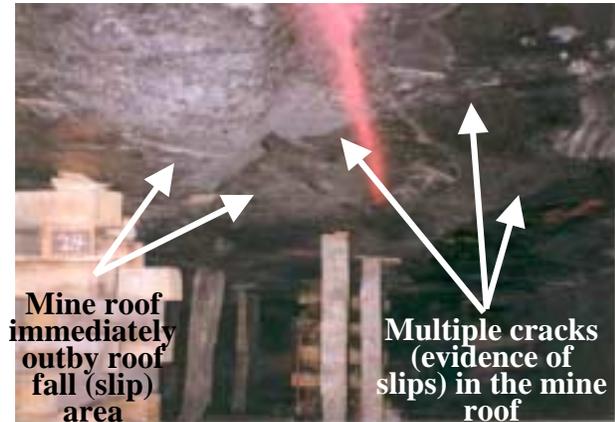
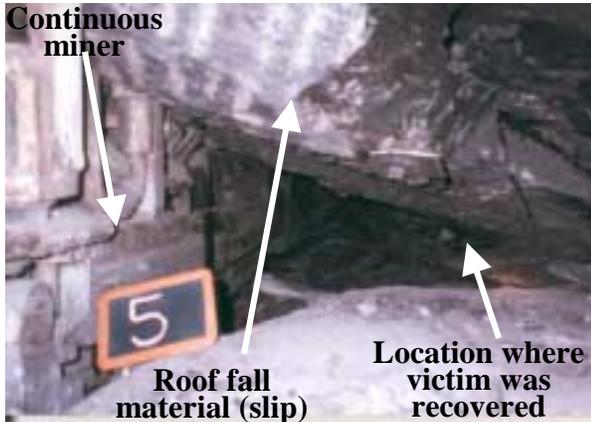


H AZARD A LERT L IVE T OMORROW

ROOF CONTROL – SAFETY ALERT!!

“BE CAREFUL FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY”



Roof falls and roof fall accidents can dramatically affect the livelihood of coal miners, their families and the viability of a coal mine. Many contributing factors can be identified **AFTER** a roof fall, but that which is more important is what was observed or detected **PRIOR** to the fall. A section foreman received fatal injuries and three other miners were temporarily entrapped by a roof fall - high angle slip. (see photos above)

REMEMBER: Everyone must work together to identify and control “potential” roof problems and failures before they occur.

Mine operators/officials can identify potential areas of roof failure by:

- Reviewing roof fall tracking history to identify when, where and why previous seam and mine specific roof failures have occurred.
- Reviewing mine maps of overlying and underlying mine workings that could and usually do affect the roof in areas of present and future mining.
- Reviewing linear zone information and topographic maps that identify contours, hollows, linear zones and depth of cover and how each may potentially affect mine roof conditions.
- Reviewing core hole data to evaluate the structural formations of roof strata above the coal seam.
- Plotting areas of roof failure and potential concern on mine maps and communicating this information to all mining personnel.

Underground foremen and workers can identify potential areas of roof failure by:

- Monitoring and evaluating all changes in mine roof conditions when approaching potential problem areas previously identified.
- Observing changes in mining conditions including pillar blocks, mine floor, ribs, water, elevation changes and/or other visual indicators previously related to adverse roof.
- Drilling additional length test holes to more fully evaluate the roof strata.
- Requesting Division of Mines stratascope evaluations that provide a visual verification of mine roof conditions.

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

