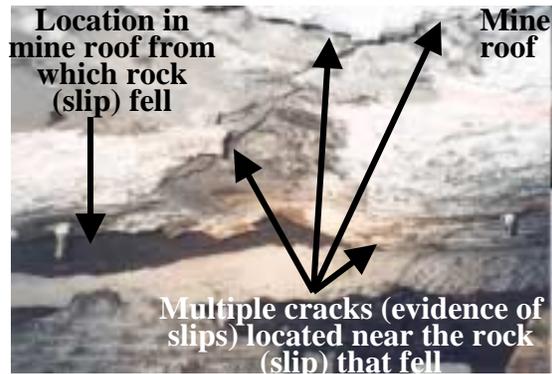


H AZARD A LERT L IVE T OMORROW

ROOF CONTROL EXAMINATIONS AND EVALUATIONS LOOK UP AND LIVE



“Miners exposed to dangers from fall of roof, face, and ribs shall examine and test the roof, face, and ribs before starting work or before starting a machine and as frequently thereafter as may be necessary to ensure safety.” (COAL MINE SAFETY LAWS OF VIRGINIA 45.1-161.116B) Even if the law didn’t require roof examinations it would make good sense to do so! Thorough examinations and accurate evaluations prevent serious accidents, so examine the roof in all work areas prior to performing work and make frequent checks thereafter since roof conditions can change at any time. A section foreman received fatal injuries when a section of roof – slip (5’ X 4’ X 0 to 8” thick) fell striking the victim’s head.

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

Additional roof examinations must be made during second mining. Second mining increases stress in the mine roof which increases the potential and hazards of roof falls.

When making examinations and evaluations, check for:

- ❖ The last full row or permanent supports in face areas and reflective warning devices
- ❖ Damaged, wide, or missing roof supports
- ❖ Cracks, slips, horsebacks, faults, kettlebottoms, or other roof abnormalities
- ❖ If cracks are present, analyze the angle, direction, and distances between cracks.

Statistics show that cracks going into the roof at an angle between 50 and 70 degrees result in more roof falls. Also, cracks that intersect in the roof increase the potential for roof falls.



- ❖ Transition of different rock types (sandstone to shale, etc.)
- ❖ Signs or sounds of excessive roof pressure
- ❖ Always communicate changes that are observed in the roof to all miners in the affected area and immediately to the foreman.

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

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REDUCTION PROGRAM

