

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MINES, MINERALS AND ENERGY

HAZARD **A**LERT **L**IVE **T**OMORROW



On April 22, 2008, at approximately 8:55 a.m., an underground fall of roof/rib material occurred, fatally injuring a roof bolter operator while he was observing a remote control mining machine. The mining machine operator, who was mining in the No. 7 entry face area, also received minor injuries to his right shoulder.

The roof bolter operator received serious head and chest injuries when he was struck by a piece of rock that fell from the roof and right rib. The rock measured approximately 69 inches long, 44 inches wide tapered to 19 inches and was approximately 14 inches thick.

A point anchor tension rebar roof bolt, six feet in length, that had secured one side of the rock, broke just above the bolt threads when the piece of roof/rib rock brow fell. Two mine foremen and four other miners had been in the accident area prior to the fall roof/rib brow. None of the mine personnel detected any unusual or abnormal roof conditions.

The injured miner was transported to Wellmont Holston Valley Medical Center by Med Flight, where he died of his injuries at 11:15 a.m., on April 28, 2008.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Spherical washers should be provided for roof bolts installed on pattern to compensate for the degree of angles in bolt installations.
- All miners should receive regular training on the approved roof control plan and roof control safety issues.
- Thorough roof/rib examinations and evaluations should be conducted by all affected mining personnel at all times and especially when the mine roof encounters transition zones, high angled slips and fractured top.

Please Post “2008”

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

