H A L T
HAZARD   ALERT   IVE   OMORROW

TRAILING CABLE
SAFETY ALERT!!

Damaged Cable Insulation   Roof Bolting Machine Cable

Damaged cable insulation area cut open for inspection

Damaged power conductor insulation

Roof bolting machine cable
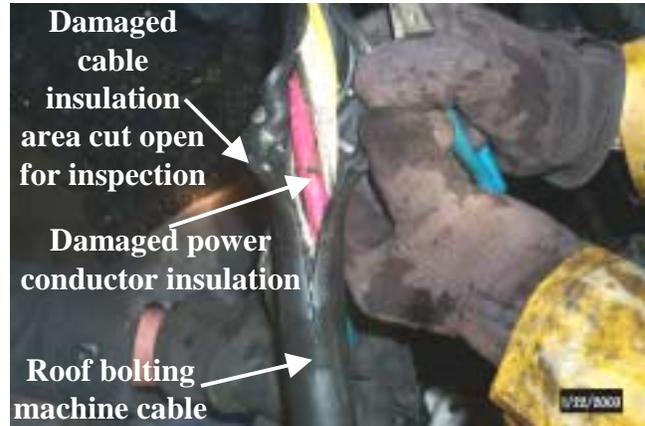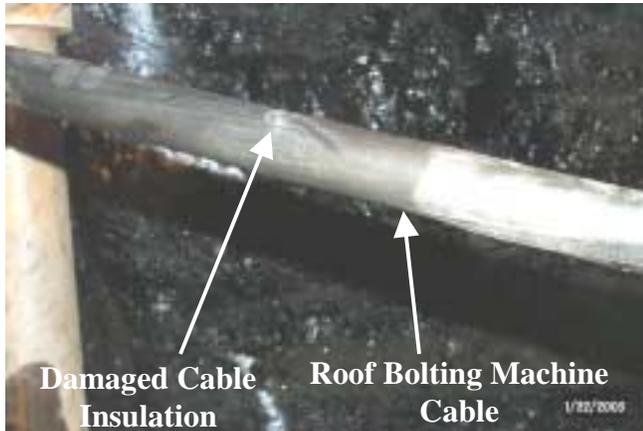
A general laborer was fatally injured when he came in contact with a steel beam that had become energized from a damaged 440 volt AC roof bolting machine trailing cable (photos above).

In 2003, two (2) underground electrical fatalities involving damaged trailing cables have occurred nationwide with one (1) occurring in a Virginia coal mine. Numerous other serious accidents and electrical shock incidents have occurred as mining personnel handled energized, low and medium voltage trailing cables. Everyone must do more to prevent damage to cables and to ensure repairs are completed immediately.

REMEMBER: Coal miners are routinely required to handle energized low and medium voltage trailing cables, and the one damaged place in a cable that you fail to identify and repair could result in a serious shock accident or even death.

SAFETY KEYPOINTS:

- Always ensure that the correct circuit has been de-energized, locked out and tagged prior to repairing or splicing cables.

- Never attempt to repair or splice cables unless you are certified and properly trained to perform such work.

- **Never** run over unprotected cables with equipment. Protect trailing cables against mechanical damage by hanging them from the mine roof or by locating them to prevent damage.

- De-energize power to any equipment or cable when stray electrical current is detected. This hazardous condition should be reported to the foreman and electrical repairman immediately. Ensure that reports of damaged cables are checked and corrected immediately.

- Wear rubber gloves when handling any type of energized, low and medium voltage cables. Rubber boots provide additional protection and should be worn when practical.

- Splices and repairs in trailing cables shall be made in a workmanlike manner, mechanically strong, well-insulated and sealed so as to exclude moisture.

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

DM ME Virginia Department of Mines Minerals and Energy