

SAFETY ALERT

Fall of rib results in fatality

INCIDENT

A miner was fatally injured when a large slab of coal rib, estimated at 4 tonnes in weight, fell and pinned him to the floor.

CIRCUMSTANCES

Pillar extraction operations were being conducted employing a remotely controlled continuous miner and BLS. The second lift in the extraction cycle for the pillar was being undertaken when a portion of unsupported rib fell from the solid side without apparent warning. The victim had his back to the rib and was substantially covered by the fallen coal.

INVESTIGATION

Inspectors of Coal Mines have attended the mine and conducted inquiries into the circumstances of the accident. Investigations are on-going.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Operators of underground coal mines should review the existing assessment of the stability of coal ribs at the mine as required by clause 32 of the *Coal Mine Health and Safety Regulation 2004* and ensure support measures are provided, so far as is reasonably practicable, to protect the people who work at the mine.

NOTE: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Alert, and are informed of its content and recommendations. This Safety Alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's notice board.

Signed



Rob Regan
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