

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
Protecting Miners' Safety and Health Since 1978

SAFETY ALERT

During the months of July and August, 2016, ten roof falls occurred on working sections after the roof was bolted. Such roof falls inby the loading point are particularly dangerous because they occur where most miners work. Fortunately, no injuries have been associated with these ten falls. These types of accidents can be reduced, if not eliminated when miners use the following Best Practices as a guide.



BEST PRACTICES

- Know and follow the approved roof control plan.
- Make frequent examinations, and be alert to changing conditions which may affect roof or rib conditions.
- Install additional roof and/or rib support when adverse conditions are encountered or anticipated.
- Use supplemental support for immediate roof control such as screen, steel straps, header boards or larger roof bolt plates.
- When retreat mining, withdraw equipment immediately if the roof becomes unstable.
- Where appropriate, use extra support in the vicinity of the last row of bolts to prevent a roof fall that initiates in the unbolted cut from extending outby.
- Use test holes to check for cracks and other hazards above the roof bolts.
- Tell mine management and other miners about unusual roof or rib conditions.
- Never travel under unsupported roof.



REMEMBER:
Safety depends upon what you
DO or DON'T DO.