



SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN



Examination of Highwalls:

- The examiner should look for cracks, separated joints, mud seams and water flowing out of the wall. The use of binoculars is recommended to examine the higher walls. For night time observations the use of a spotlight is recommended.
- Where possible, examine from the top and bottom of the highwall.
- Heavy rainfall and severe freezing and thawing conditions will require more frequent examinations.
- Depth of drill holes and blasting methods affect highwall safety. Blasting methods should be designed to avoid under cutting the toe of the wall.
- Always trim the highwall properly as the spoil and blasted material is removed.
- Underground mines may create subsidence and weaken the highwall.

Recommendations:

To assure that you have a safe work environment:

- Conduct thorough on shift examinations of all work areas. Especially highwall, pit, auger and thin seam operations.
- Equipment operators should limit exposure to the immediate highwall face areas.
- Equipment operators should not position the operator compartment near the highwall face.
- During poor visibility and night time operations, adequate lighting should be provided.
- Make sure Foremen on each shift communicate with the on-coming Shift Foreman, especially when hazardous conditions are reported.
- **Mud seams are very unstable. Never work parallel to one.**

ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM