

# SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN

## DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR BUDDY IS?



### FALL OF ROOF ACCIDENT

On June 12, 2006, at approximately 2:35 p.m., a day shift section foreman at a Buchanan County Va. underground coal mine was seriously injured while performing a pre-shift examination of the working section. While examining the face area of the No. 1 heading, a piece of the mine roof measuring 119 inches long, 36 inches wide and 0 to 9 inches thick fell from between the last line of roof bolts on the right side of the entry and the right coal rib. The foreman was trapped between the rock and the mine floor with only the foreman's feet protruding from underneath the rock. The foreman remained trapped underneath the rock from 2:35 p.m. until approximately 4:30 p.m. when he was discovered by a fellow miner who was searching for the foreman. The foreman sustained a cracked vertebrae of the lower back, but will not have surgery at this time.

The inby end of the rock was on pushed up loose coal which kept the full impact and weight of the rock off the foreman. **This could easily have been a fatality.**

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Thorough roof examinations should be made with special vigilance on areas from the rib to the first roof bolt and from the last two rows of bolts to the face.
- All miners especially foreman and mine examiners who work alone should inform other miners of their location and the time required to complete their tasks.

## ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM