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SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN

(No. 2 – 2021)

Kentucky DMS – Safety Alert No.2 (Highwall Failure)

On Friday, October 22, 2021, at approximately 12:05 pm, a Non-Injury highwall failure occurred in the Harlan Branch, the fall resulted in extensive damage to the companies Superior Highwall Mining Machine and other support equipment. The highwall miner operator and other employees observed debris falling from the wall as they were mining coal from the bench of a surface mining operation near abandoned underground mine workings. At this point, the employees working in the affected area of the bench were promptly evacuated before the wall collapsed.

Highwall Scene



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct an adequate preshift examination prior to performing work.
2. Understand and follow safety precautions in the mine's ground control plan.
3. Conduct a visual examination of highwalls, looking for cracks, old mine workings, and other hazards.
4. All employees shall be trained in the identification of highwall stability hazards.