Kentucky DMS – Fatal Accident No. 2
On Sunday March 20, 2022, a 33-year-old underground miner with 13 years of mining experience was fatally injured while working at an underground mine in the Harlan Branch.

The accident occurred while the victim was observing a co-worker in the process of removing a permanent stopping with a battery powered scoop. After a portion of the stopping was removed, a large section of the mine roof, measuring approximately 20 feet wide and 50 feet long and being 5 feet thick, collapsed resulting in fatal blunt force trauma type injuries.

Recommendations
1.) Mine roof and ribs shall be properly examined in all areas prior to performing work.
2.) Frequent roof evaluations shall be conducted to ensure adequate support is being maintained.
3.) Miners shall not congregate in the area while stoppings or standing support is removed.