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### SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN

(No. 3 – 2024)

#### Kentucky DMS Safety Alert No. 3 – Fall of Highwall

Two (2) non-injury highwall failures have occurred at underground mines in the Pikeville branch in just over a month.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, a large section of highwall fell above the No. 2 belt entry, striking and collapsing the canopy and conveyor belt. The section of the fallen highwall was approximately 10' in-depth, 15' high, and 20' in width.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, a large section of highwall from the upper bench dislodged and fell striking the pumphouse and water tank. The section of the dislodged wall was approximately 5' in-depth, 25' high, and 15' in width.

### **Incident Scene**



### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct regular and thorough visual examinations of highwalls for cracks and signs of instability.
2. All employees shall be trained in identifying signs of highwall instability.
3. Perform an adequate number of examinations during fluctuating winter weather, particularly during freezing and thawing conditions and periods of excessive rain.