

GOVERNOR

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SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN

(No. 3 - 2024)

Kentucky DMS Safety Alert No. 3 - Fall of Highwall

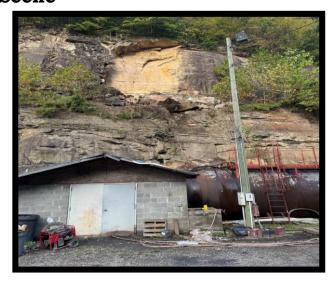
Two (2) non-injury highwall failures have occurred at underground mines in the Pikeville branch in just over a month.

On August 17th, 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 20th, 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.