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SAFETY ALERT

(BULLETIN – NO. 1 – 2025)

In recent months, there have been several accidents involving energized trailing cables containing voltages that range from 480 to 995 volts. All of these incidents occurred while handling energized cables. It is critical to understand that the phase conductors of these cables must contact the ground conducting wire to de-energize the circuit breaker at the power center.

One of the recent injuries involved a 12,470-volt power cable out by the working section. A roof bolter operator received an electrical shock when an inadequate high-voltage splice short-circuited and dissipated the voltage through the ground grounding system. This failsafe circuit limits the voltage to 100 volts or less. Five miners reported receiving a shock from this incident.

Accident Scene/Electrical Trailing Cable



RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT REOCCURRENCE

- (1) De-energize, lock, and tag out all electrical trailing cables prior to handling them.
- (2) Miners must wear proper gloves and boots in good condition when handling energized electrical cables.
- (3) Conduct daily inspections of electrical power cables in use before operation or handling.
- (4) The electrical circuits must be maintained by a Kentucky-certified electrician.
- (5) Maintain all electrical cable splices according to the splicing material manufacturers' guidelines.