## It Happened...

On April 9, 1989, a belt examiner found a fire along the main belt entry caused by hot slag from cutting and welding operations conducted days prior.

On April 16, 1990, a fire occurred in the tailgate entry of a longwall when a methane gas feeder was ignited by a torch that was used for cutting of a roof bolt protruding from the roof.

On April 18, 1990, a fire occurred in an area where belt conveyor supports were being recovered. A cutting torch had been used to remove roof bolts supporting the belt conveyor structure. The fire was found on the shift after cutting was completed.

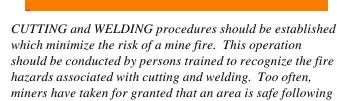
On June 27, 1990, a miner was cutting the hub off a scoop. The grease in the hub caught fire.



Typical cutting torch arrangement

## Best Practices Fire Protection Card No. BPFP-1

time.



• ALWAYS follow your mine's cutting and welding plan.

cutting and welding, only to have a fire develop at a later

- ALWAYS wear appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment.
- ALWAYS check the work area for methane gas.
- ALWAYS examine the work area for potential hazards.
- ALWAYS provide good ventilation.
- **ALWAYS** use suitable curtains to shield surrounding areas from sparks and molten metal.
- **ALWAYS** remove combustibles from the work area if possible.
- ALWAYS wet down combustibles or cover them with suitable non-combustible material.
- ALWAYS ensure that the cutting torch is equipped with check valves and flame arrestors to prevent flames from flashing back into the acetylene gas cylinder.
- **ALWAYS** inspect area for fire and maintain a fire watch for at least 30 minutes after work has been completed.
- NEVER apply heat to an enclosed vessel or confined spaces such as tanks, mounted tires, or mechanical equipment with enclosed cavities.
- **NEVER** conduct cutting and welding when mine fire protection water is out of service.

U.S. Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration