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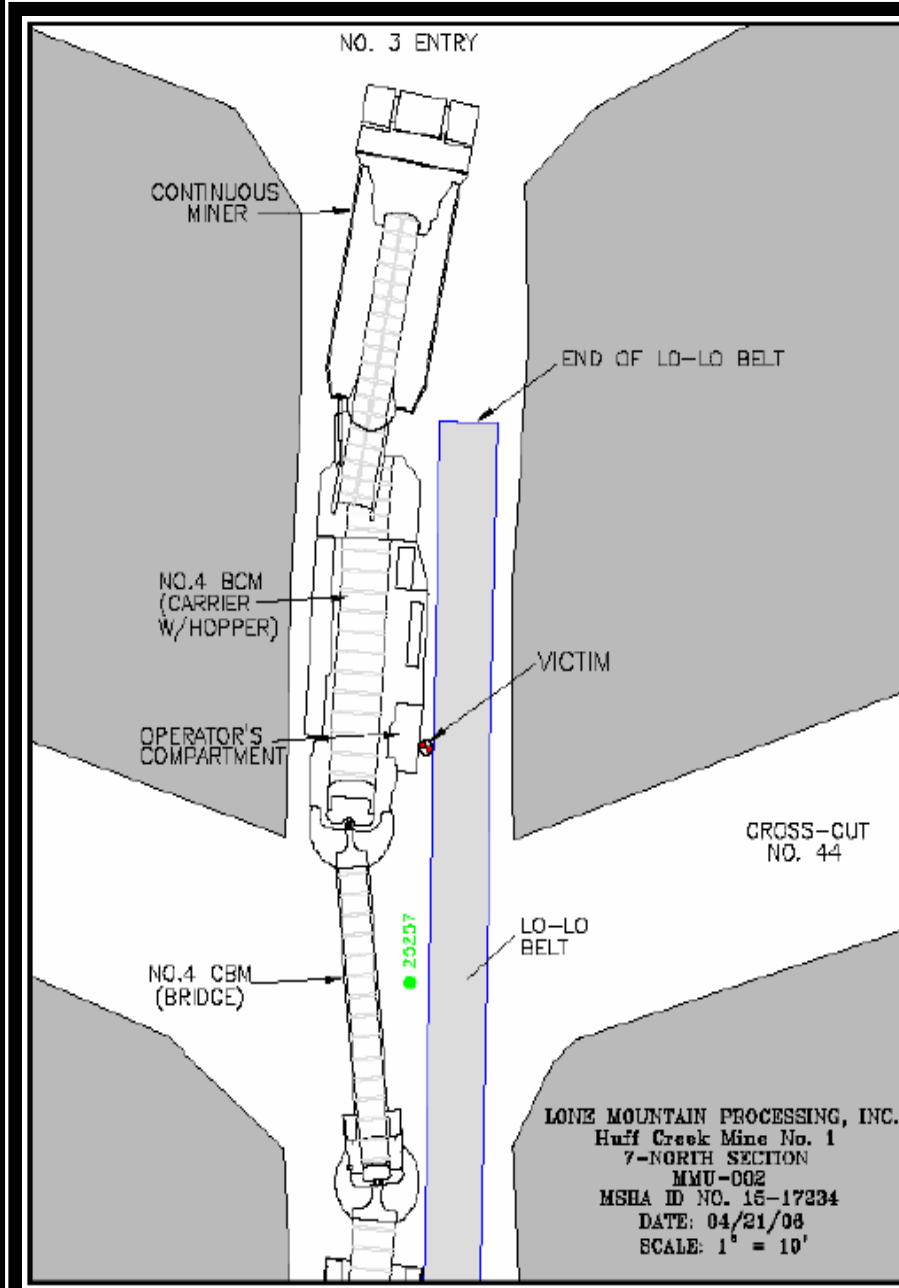
# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Coal Mine Fatal Accident 2006-26



Operator:	Lone Mountain Processing Inc.
Mine:	Huff Creek No. 1
Accident Date:	April 21, 2006
Classification:	Machinery
Location:	Dist. 7, Harlan County, Kentucky
Mine Type:	Underground Coal Mine
Employment:	135
Production:	12,000 Tons/Day

# ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION



At approximately 4:30 a.m. on Friday, April 21, 2006, a 45 year-old Electrician was found fatally injured at Lone Mountain Processing Inc.'s Huff Creek No. 1 mine. The accident occurred while the victim was checking the hydraulic pressure on the left side tram of the No. 4 Breaker Car Module (BCM) while outside the operator's compartment. During this process, the No. 4 BCM tram control was bumped or struck by the victim, causing the machine to move, pinning him between the operator's compartment and the lo-lo conveyor belt structure.

# ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS

Causal Factor: The mine operator did not have written procedures or policies in place to require blocking machinery against motion before performing repairs or maintenance. The victim was fatally injured when the BCM moved due the BCM not being blocked from motion. The victim's position, being located in a pinch point area, exposed him to hazardous conditions when the No. 4 BCM was started up and the left tram was engaged in reverse.

Corrective Action: The operator developed and implemented an action plan that was added to the training plan to require safety procedures to be followed when operating or performing maintenance on equipment.

# ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

**§104(a) Citation No. 7534982** was issued to Lone Mountain Processing Inc. for a violation of 30 CFR 75.1725(c)

On April 21, 2006, maintenance was being performed on the No. 4 Breaker Car Module (BCM), located on the 002 MMU. The BCM was positioned in the No. 3 entry beside the lo-lo structure to permit scheduled maintenance. The machine was not deenergized and blocked against motion. The victim received fatal injuries when the left tram control lever of the BCM engaged, causing the BCM to pivot, crushing him against the adjacent lo-lo belt structure.

# BEST PRACTICES

- Ensure that machinery is blocked against motion before performing maintenance or repairs, and work from the safest location possible.
- Install and maintain "position occupied" switches or devices designed to prevent all system movement when any operator leaves their cab. For more info, click:  
[http://www.msha.gov/Accident\\_Prevention/ideas/pinch.htm](http://www.msha.gov/Accident_Prevention/ideas/pinch.htm)
- Develop and implement a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for conducting repair work on bridge carriers.
- Develop processes, involving all miners, designed to proactively identify and eliminate hazards and unacceptable risks.