

Best Practices

Roof Evaluation and Examination

BP Card No. 26



During 1990 through 1996, over 200 roof and rib accidents occurred during roof testing and scaling.

To safely conduct a roof evaluation and examination, these practices should be followed:

- ☛ Know your immediate roof (from the roof control plan).
- ☛ Be aware of geological features in the area.
- ☛ Constantly observe and test the roof for adverse conditions.
- ☛ Always make a visual examination of the area before testing or scaling the roof. If hazardous conditions are observed, testing is not required.
- ☛ Wear safety glasses when sounding the roof.
- ☛ Keep all lines of communication open with all co-workers regarding adverse roof and rib conditions.
- ☛ When a hazard is observed, eliminate the condition as soon as possible; do not depend on others.
- ☛ If the roof or ribs are hazardous, support them or remove the hazard by pulling down the hazardous material.
- ☛ Always stand under supported top when scaling and testing roof.
- ☛ Use proper equipment, such as a scaling bar of sufficient length, when scaling roof. **(Pry Up, Not Down!)**
- ☛ To prevent hand injuries while using a scaling bar, one method is to slip a piece of water hose about half way onto the bar. If material being pried down slides down the bar, it is deflected away from the hands.
- ☛ Communicate with the roof bolter operator about the condition of the roof he/she has been drilling so adverse roof can be identified.
- ☛ Frequently use test hole information for roof evaluation.

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