

2008 SUMMER PROP INITIATIVE



Retreat Mining

Between 1997 and the present, 29 coal miners died from roof falls and coal outbursts while utilizing room and pillar retreat mining methods. Many of these accidents occurred in intersections. Research has shown that intersections are eight to ten times more likely to collapse than an equivalent length of entry or crosscut.

Always follow your roof control plan as well as these precautions:

- During retreat mining, do not congregate near the pillar line, stay outby the active intersection whenever possible.
- It's critical that openings that create an intersection should be mined to the minimum possible widths that will allow the safe operation of haulage equipment.
- Minimize the entry width, limit the number and depth of turnouts during development (ideally only one turnout should be made for each pillar row), and never turn cuts in both directions in the same intersection unless approved in your roof control plan.
- Do not mine the final stump if conditions appear hazardous.
- Report all adverse roof and rib conditions to the foreman.

U.S. Department of Labor

MSHA

Mine Safety & Health Administration

www.msha.gov