



PULLING PILLARS (RETREAT MINING)

Between 1997 and 2007, an average of 2 coal miners died each year from roof falls while pulling pillars. More than half of these accidents occurred in intersections.

Always follow the roof control plan, as well as these precautions:

- Stay outby the last active intersection whenever possible.**
- Properly set breaker, turn, and roadway posts in the correct sequence.**
- Monitor roof conditions frequently. Pay extra attention to geologic features, such as slips, kettle bottoms, horse-backs, etc., which can become unstable during retreat mining.**
- Check test holes for separation on a regular basis.**
- Always maintain proper stump and fender sizes.**
- Leave the area immediately if adverse conditions develop.**



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