

**U.S. Department of Labor**  
**Mine Safety and Health Administration**  
Protecting Miners' Safety and Health Since 1978

## SAFETY ALERT

**Due to accidents and methane ignitions at highwall miner and auger operations, MSHA is providing best practices to aid mine operators in developing sound ground control plans.**



## BEST PRACTICES

- Provide adequate spacing/webbing between holes to reduce potential cut through and increase highwall stability.
- Ventilate to dilute methane or inert with adequate volume of non-combustible gas.
- Use water sprays to suppress float coal dust.
- Monitor for methane and have action levels established.
- Use explosive-proof equipment inby the collar of the hole.
- Employ an alignment process to assure sufficient barriers are maintained.
- Locate gas wells and/or abandoned mines near the mining zone.



**REMEMBER:**  
Safety depends upon what you  
DO or DON'T DO.