

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

**SAFETY ALERT**

**RIB FALL HAZARDS**

During 2010, rib falls killed three coal miners, and injured approximately 80 more. Analysis indicates that the rib fall hazard is greatest where the ribs are seven feet high or greater, the depth of cover is 700 feet or greater, or where the ribs contain rock partings or brows.



- Implement a rib control plan during the roof bolting cycle when conditions warrant.
- Walk-through roof bolting machines significantly reduce worker exposure to hazardous ribs.
- Conduct thorough pre-shift examinations and on-shift examinations of the roof, face, and ribs immediately before work or travel is in an area and thereafter as conditions warrant.
- Assure the roof control plan is suitable for prevailing geologic conditions. Revise the plan if conditions change and the support system is not adequate to control the roof, face, and ribs.
- Install additional rib support where the roof or floor is cut above or below the coal seam, such as at overcasts and loading points.



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