

Roof Evaluation and Examination



MSHA 1026 (BP-26)



Many roof and rib accidents occur 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 coworkers 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 halfway onto the bar; it is deflected away from the hands.
- ✓ Communicate with the roof bolter operator about the condition of the roof he or she has been drilling so adverse roof can be identified.
- ✓ Frequently use test hole information for roof evaluation.

Arrive Home Alive

*U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
Visit our website at www.msha.gov*

February 2009