



Fatality Alert

MINE FATALITIES – On December 14, 2020, two miners died when a back failure occurred in a large intersection. The miners were drilling in an attempt to intercept water leaks when blocks of salt and anhydrite fell from beneath a slickenside onto the miners.



Best Practices

- **In areas of excessive span or adverse geology:**
 - **Install supplemental ground support** to control strata movement.
 - **Install sag monitors or extensometers** to detect ground movement or strata separation.
 - **Drill and evaluate test holes for strata separation** using a borescope or scratch test.
- **Use geologic hazard mapping** to identify adverse conditions.
- **Be alert to any change of ground conditions.**
- **Report hazardous or abnormal conditions.**
- **Perform thorough workplace examinations** where miners work or travel.
- **Identify and scale hazardous ground conditions** from a safe location.
- **Train miners** to recognize hazards and follow safe work practices, especially before they perform new tasks.

These are the 27th and 28th fatalities reported in 2020, and the second and third classified as “Fall of Roof or Back.”

The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data only and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatalities.

Report accidents and hazardous conditions: 1-800-746-1553

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