

# ! SAFETY ALERT !

## COAL MINE NEAR MISS

January 18, 2010

During the afternoon shift at approximately 11:30 p.m., a D9L bulldozer operator became entrapped for approximately three hours in a void which had formed over a feeder in the clean coal pile. The equipment operator had 37 years total mining experience and 8 years as a bulldozer operator. Following established training procedures and remaining calm prevented this near miss from being a lost time or fatal accident.



### BEST PRACTICES

- Stay in the equipment. STAY **INSIDE** TO KEEP ALIVE!!
- Stay in constant communication.
- Equipment should be well maintained with submarine glass, seatbelts, and self rescuers.
- Lighting should be adjusted when pile conditions change.
- A remote stop control device should be provided inside the cab.
- Develop and follow procedures for operating equipment around voids.
- Provide heightened awareness annual training to employees involved with these sites.
- Utilize GPS technology to estimate the location of underground feeders.