

Recent Coal Mine Accidents

In the two accidents shown below, can you guess which equipment operator survived?



Answer: The one who remained in his seat belt.

A bulldozer over-traveled the crest of a highwall and fell approximately 138 feet before the machine came to rest. The impacts of the fall were so violent that the blade was broken from the D11 bulldozer. The operator received some injuries but survived the accident. The operator was using a seat belt and stayed with the machine.

A coal miner was fatally injured when he lost control of a truck and did not remain in the cab. Presently, it is undetermined whether the miner was ejected or was attempting to jump from the truck. After leaving the truck, the miner was struck by the rear portion of the truck bed. Investigators believe that had the miner remained in the truck, with his seat belt securely fastened, the accident probably would not have been fatal.

Best Practices

Never operate a truck or moving machine without using a seat belt!

Never attempt to jump from a moving truck or machine!

Always conduct a thorough pre-operational inspection, including checking seat belts!

