REDZONE IS THE “NO ZONE”

Between January 1, 2005 and the present, there have been six remote controlled continuous mining machine related fatal accidents in our nations coal mines. Fortunately, none of those fatalities have occurred in District 3 mines. During the same period, there were 87 accidents nationwide with 14 of those accidents occurring in District 3 mines where miners were injured while operating a remote controlled continuous mining machine in the red zone. The severity of those accidents varied from bruising to permanently disabling injuries.

BEST PRACTICES

- Always be sure that everyone is in a safe location before starting the continuous miner.
- While tramming the continuous miner, the miner operator or other persons should not stand or walk beside of the machine. These persons should position themselves away from the cutting head and boom of the continuous miner so that they will not be endangered by sudden movement of the machine.
- The pump motor on the continuous miner should be de-energized before loading and unloading cable on the cable hooks installed on the machine.
- Be aware that wet and muddy floor conditions, dips, and rolls can cause sudden, unexpected movement of any machine.
- Avoid visibility problems and ensure secure footing when tramming the miner.