

COAL MINE - PERMANENTLY DISABLING ACCIDENT On July 11, 2009, a Longwall Trainee Supervisor received crushing injuries to his foot that resulted in the amputation of his leg below the knee. The supervisor was located at the 140 shield when a shield puller informed him and another miner at the 141 shield that he was going to advance a bank of five shields, which included the 140 and 141 shields. As the shields advanced, the shield relay bar, which connects the shield to the face conveyor, trapped the supervisor's right foot. The shield base or pontoon advanced into his foot and crushed his heel. The shield puller saw that the shield was advancing on the supervisor and activated the emergency stop. The shield was then depressurized to free the supervisor's foot. The miner on shield 141 had positioned himself on the pontoon and was not injured.



Best Practices

Photo is not of accident site

- Be aware of your surroundings and potential pinch points.
- Do not position yourself in the area of the pan line as a shield or a batch of shields is advanced. Instead, position yourself to one side of an advancing shield or batch of shields.
- Take extra care when communicating safety issues with new and/or inexperienced miners.
- Communicate actions to personnel clearly, so they are aware of and understand the hazards involved.