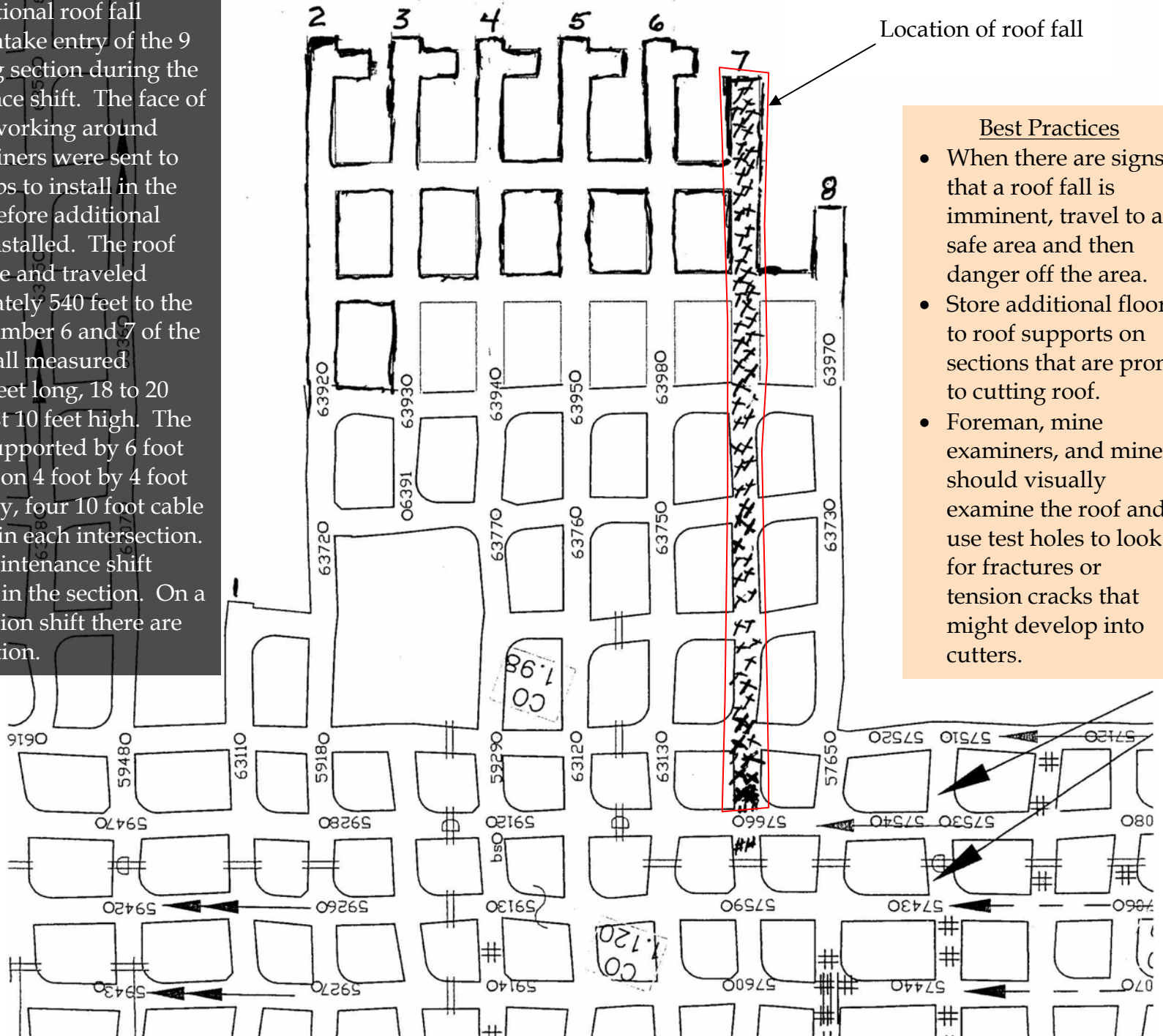


COAL MINE

NEAR FATAL ACCIDENTS On July 10, 2009, an unintentional roof fall occurred in the #7 intake entry of the 9 Butt Rooms working section during the midnight maintenance shift. The face of the #7 entry began working around midnight and the miners were sent to gather posts and cribs to install in the area. The roof fell before additional supports could be installed. The roof fall started at the face and traveled outby for approximately 540 feet to the crosscut between number 6 and 7 of the Butt heading. The fall measured approximately 540 feet long, 18 to 20 feet wide and at least 10 feet high. The entire section was supported by 6 foot torque tension bolts on 4 foot by 4 foot centers. Additionally, four 10 foot cable bolts were installed in each intersection. On the midnight maintenance shift there were five men in the section. On a normal coal production shift there are nine men on the section.

9 Butt Rooms



Location of roof fall

Best Practices

- When there are signs that a roof fall is imminent, travel to a safe area and then danger off the area.
- Store additional floor to roof supports on sections that are prone to cutting roof.
- Foreman, mine examiners, and miners should visually examine the roof and use test holes to look for fractures or tension cracks that might develop into cutters.