

METAL/NONMETAL Serious Accident Alert

Underground – Zinc– On May 15, 2018, while operating a locomotive underground, a miner hit his head on a low clearance ventilation bulkhead. The miner received head injuries but was able to walk out of the mine and never lost consciousness. The operator drove him to a hospital, not expecting the injuries to be serious, but the miner was admitted to the ICU with severe head injuries.



Best Practices

- Underground roadway heights can change abruptly. Always face the direction of travel and exercise extreme caution in low clearance areas.
- Keep all body parts within the operator's compartment while a vehicle is in motion. Stay below the highest part of a vehicle frame or windshield, especially when travelling through low clearance areas.
- Install reflective signs or warning lights well in advance of approaching low clearance areas in order to alert miners of the upcoming danger of low clearance.
- Hang ventilation cloth twenty feet from the low clearance area in both direction at the same low clearance height. The cloth will require minimum maintenance and give an early alert to the change in entry height.
- Conduct proper travelway examinations to identify and mitigate the hazards presented by low clearances. Travel at safe speeds so that mobile equipment can be stopped within the limits of visibility.
- Coordinate with local emergency services and have a plan to transport injured persons to medical care providers.
Conduct task training for each type of personnel carrier or equipment operated.



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