

Allock, Kentucky

Feb. 27, 1947

ALL EMPLOYEES:

Of the 111 men reported killed in the coal mines of Kentucky during 1946, 70 or 63 per cent of them met their death under a fall of slate or roof.

53 of them were killed at or near the working face and 17 were killed on the entry. The men killed near the face included 25 miners, 6 conveyor men, 5 machinemen, 5 drillers, 4 officials, 3 machine helpers, and 5 Joy workers. The men killed on the entry were 3 timbermen, 1 trackman, 2 foremen, 2 miners, 2 brakemen, 2 slate men, 1 slate boss, 1 wireman, 1 pumper and one driver.

Two of the slate falls had two miners under each of them and another fall got a machineman and his helper.

The size of the fall that killed a man or men was reported in 40 cases and the average piece measured $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, $7\frac{1}{4}$ feet wide and 11 inches thick. 42 of the fatalities were charged to insufficient timbering, and the average size of the slate that fell would have remained supported if more posts had been set under it. In many instances, the victim was removed from under slate with posts no where in evidence, and the previous visit of the section foreman had not compelled safe action to be taken.

Eight men were killed when they knocked posts or jacks and had not set other posts as a safety measure.

Seven were killed by a second fall while they were cleaning up a first fall. They neglected to sound the top and set temporary timbers to make themselves safe.

Four were killed by falls when they went back after shooting, before the smoke had cleared, and without making a careful examination as they approached the face.

Three were killed by entry falls when wrecked cars knocked posts from under loose top, slate that should not have been left resting on timbers.

Three were killed by entry slate as they either walked or rode the man-trip away from their working places. Supervision was held accountable.

Had proper steps been taken in the way of timbering and the setting of safety posts at the working faces, the removal of top that timbering could not make safe, and the kind of supervision that would have compelled the taking of necessary precautions, most, if not about all, of the accidents would have been prevented.

With your cooperation we need not have such fatalities in our mines, and we beg of YOU not to take unnecessary chances.

CARRS FORK COAL COMPANY, INC.

P. A. Grady

General Superintendent.

