

Report of Fatality  
Longwall Setup Face Haulage Equipment  
April 3, 2026

Ohio County Coal Resources  
Ohio County Mine  
Permit Number D00004791B  
Near Dallas in Ohio County, WV

Region I Office  
14 Commerce Drive Ste 1  
Westover, WV 26501  
Edward Peddicord, Inspector-at-Large



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## Photos



Photo of the #650-2007 CAT Duck Bill Scoop that was involved in the accident. (The canopy and glancer bar were removed from the machine prior to this photo.)

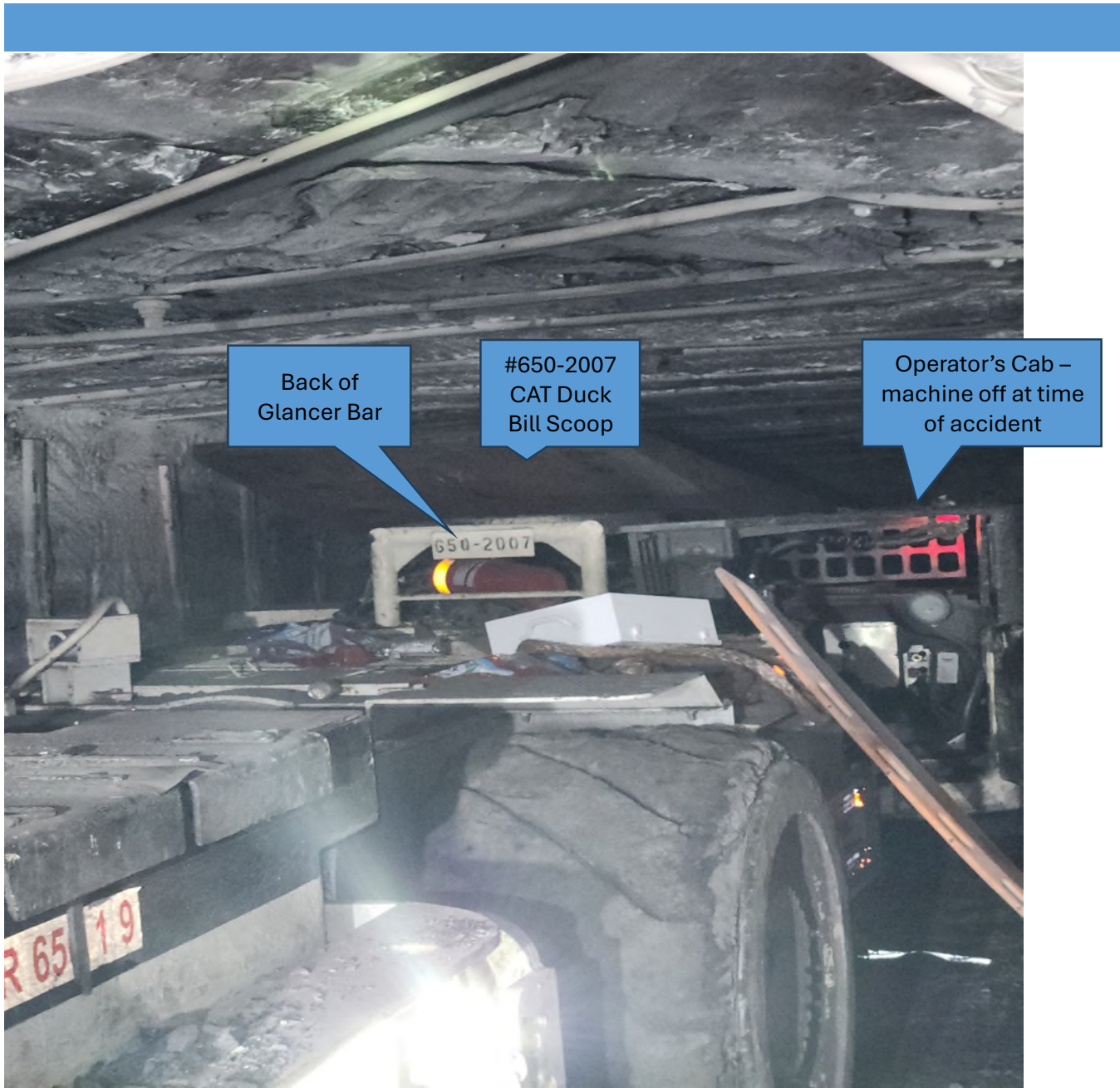
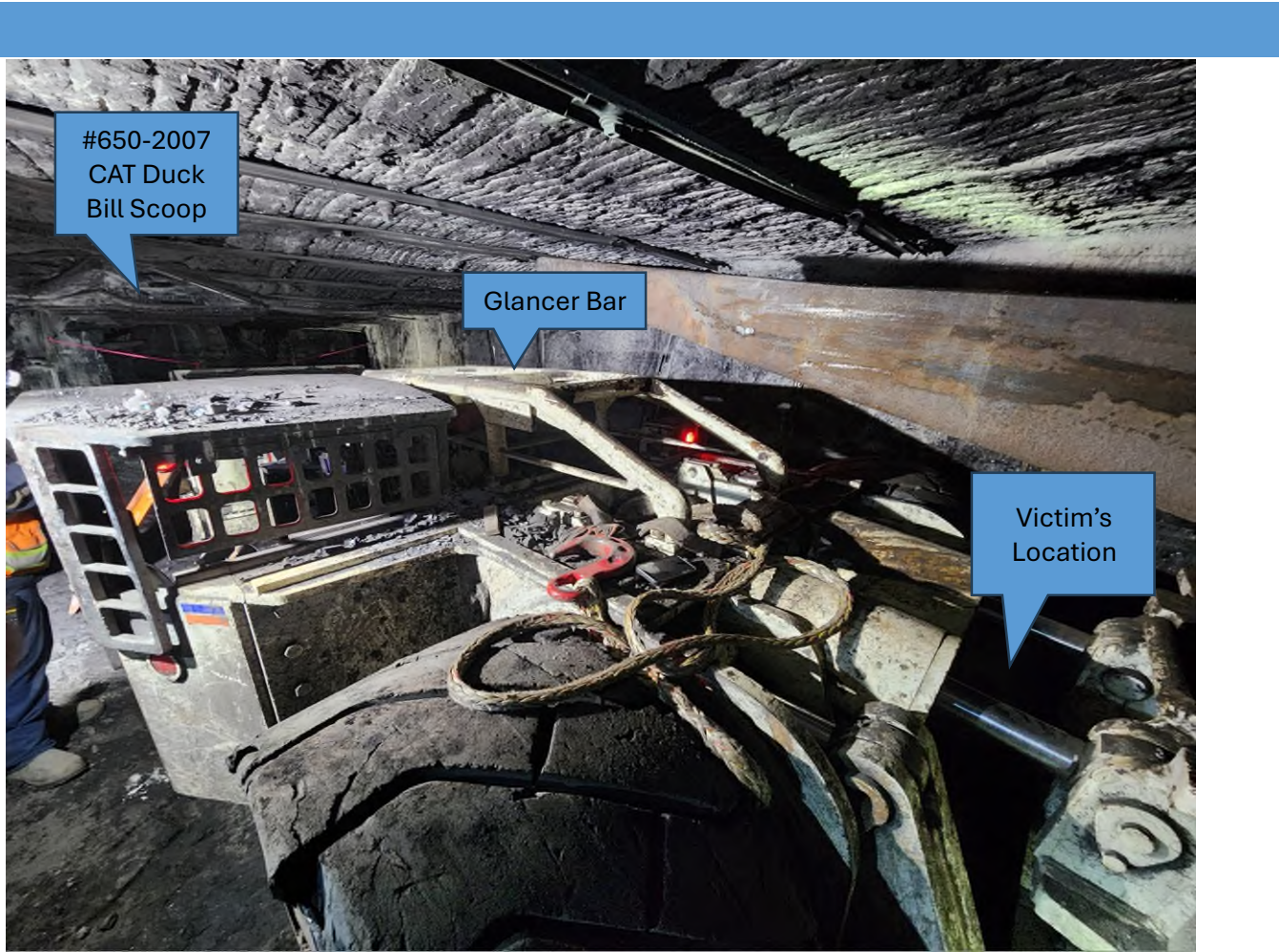


Photo of the accident scene at the #3 Left Longwall Setup Section.



#650-2007  
CAT Duck  
Bill Scoop

Glycer Bar

Victim's  
Location

Photo of the accident scene at the #3 Left Longwall Setup Section.

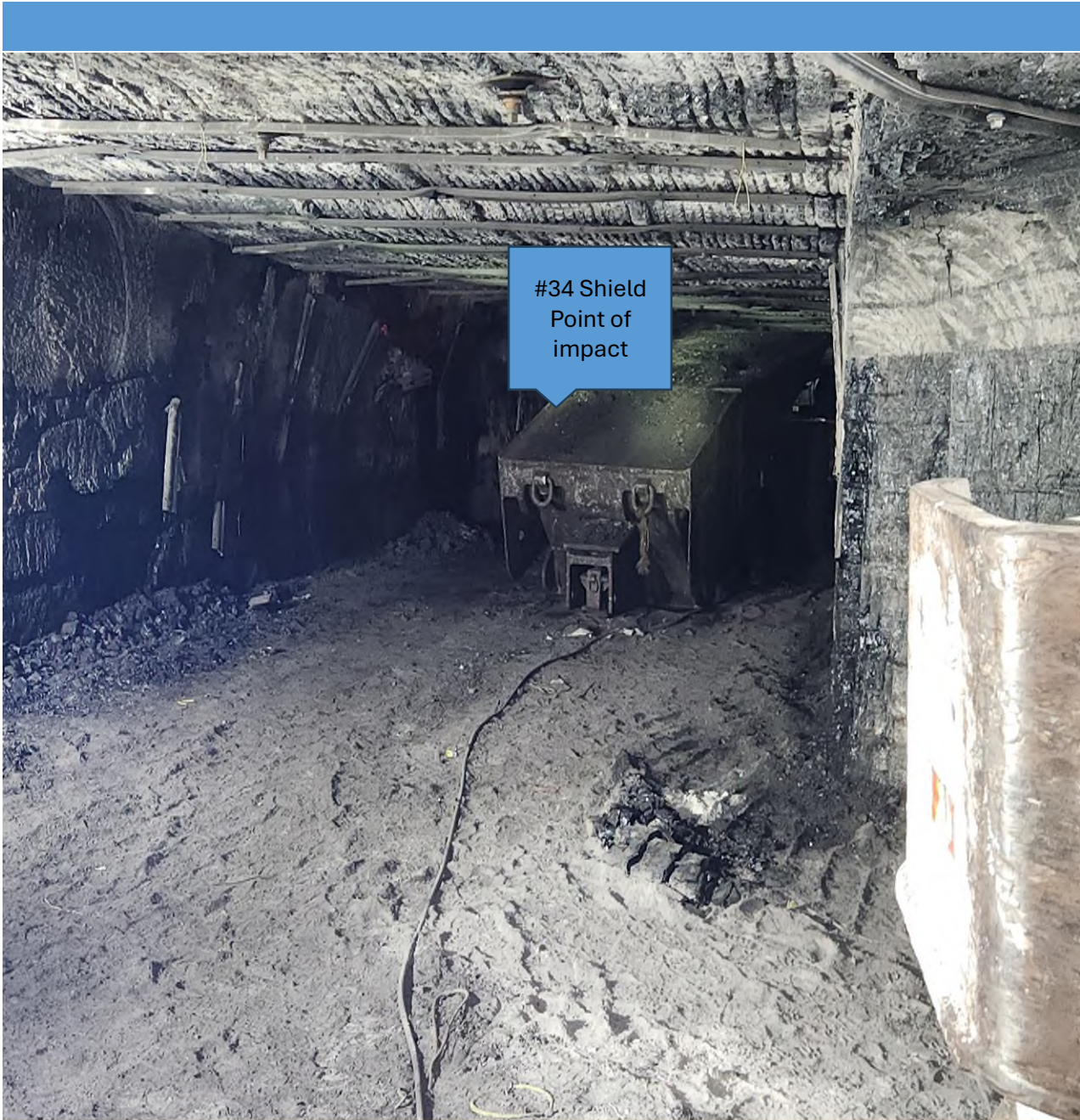


Photo of the accident scene at the #3 Left Longwall Setup Section.



Photo of the accident scene at the #3 Left Longwall Setup Section.



CAD drawing from Ohio County Mine of the accident scene at the #3 Left Longwall Setup Section.

## General Information

Ohio County Coal Resources, Ohio County Mine, Permit No. D00004791B, is located near Dallas in Marshall County, West Virginia. The Ohio County Mine produces 17,042 raw tons per day and the annual production year-to-date is 1,111,778 raw tons from three (3) continuous miner units and one (1) longwall. The coal is transported from the working sections by conveyor belts to the slope belt and then by overland belts to the preparation plant. The Ohio County Mine employs four hundred and ninety-six (496) personnel and operates three (3) shifts per day. The day, evening and midnight shifts are all coal producing shifts. Ohio County Coal Resources accesses the Pittsburgh coal seam through the Golden Ridge, Whittaker and the River Portals. The Ohio County Mine utilizes diesel-powered, track-mounted equipment as well as rubber-tired, battery-powered haulage equipment to transport people, equipment and mine supplies.

On April 3, 2026, at 10:21 a.m., 36-year-old Darin Reece, Section Supervisor, received fatal injuries while he was working the dayshift on the #3 Left Longwall Setup Face at the #1-2 crosscut. Mr. Reece was an employee of Ohio County Coal Resources, Ohio County Mine.

On April 3, 2026, at 10:35 a.m., Jason Collins, Dispatcher, called 911 for assistance. At 10:35 a.m., the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security Mine and Industrial Accident Rapid Response System were notified of the accident. At 10:46 a.m., Ed Peddicord, Inspector-at-Large and Tadd Rankin, Assistant Inspector-at-Large, for the West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training, were notified by the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security that an accident had occurred at the Ohio County Mine. Mr. Peddicord and Mr. Rankin notified Chris Ray, John Sparks, Adam Matlick and Rick Rinehart, District Inspectors. Mr. Rankin issued a verbal order at 11:12 a.m., to Matt Cunningham, Safety Director of the Ohio County Mine. Mr. Rankin, Mr. Ray, Mr. Sparks, Mr. Matlick and Mr. Rinehart all traveled to the Ohio County Mine. A joint investigation by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, Ohio County Coal Resources, the Ohio County Mine and the West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training immediately began.

## Accident Description

The Longwall Dayshift Crew members' normal shift starts at 8:00 a.m., and ends at 4:00 p.m. On April 3, 2026, Longwall Dayshift Crew Darin Reece, Section Supervisor, Travis Altmeyer, Spotter, Bryan Rankin, Outby Longwall Supervisor, Cody Holland, Maintenance Supervisor, Ralph Dunlap, Laborer and Alan Bonamo, Garrett Tingley and Justin Wade, Scoop Operators, went underground to relieve the Midnight Longwall Setup Section Crew. They arrived on the #3 Left Longwall Setup Section at 9:08 a.m. Once on the #3 Left Longwall Setup Section, they went to the #3 Left Longwall Setup Face to relieve the midnight shift. They met the midnight crew in the area of the #1-2 crosscut.


Mr. Reece instructed Mr. Tingley to take the shield that was loaded on the CAT #650-1054 scoop that he was operating and install the shield on the #3 Left Longwall Setup Face. Mr. Wade was instructed to drop the #34 shield on the mine floor at the #2 crosscut, which was loaded on the #3-555 Highland scoop he was operating. Mr. Bonamo, Mr. Reece and Mr. Altmeyer attempted to load the #34 shield onto the CAT #650-2007 scoop that Mr. Bonamo was operating.

While loading the #34 shield on the CAT #650-2007 scoop, Mr. Bonomo, Mr. Reece and Mr. Altmeyer noticed the synthetic winch rope had wrapped around the outside of the winch reel compartment. After Mr. Reece cut and re-braided the synthetic winch rope, Mr. Reece and Mr. Bonamo attempted to load the #34 shield onto the CAT #650-2007 scoop, which resulted in the winch rope retaining bolt breaking on the winch.

Mr. Reece instructed Mr. Altmeyer to find a replacement bolt. Mr. Reece accessed the top of the scoop and began working on the winch. After Mr. Altmeyer left the #1-2 crosscut, the CAT #650-1054 scoop, operated by Mr. Tingley, was tramming battery end first toward the #1-2 crosscut. Mr. Tingley's scoop came into contact with the back of #34 shield that was located on the CAT #650-2007 scoop duck bill, crushing Mr. Reece between the #34 shield tip and glancer bar on the CAT #650-2007 scoop. Mr. Bonamo and Mr. Tingley called Lucas Riley, Longwall Supervisor, and Cody Holland on the radio, requesting help.

## Timeline

- On April 3, 2026, at 7:30 a.m., Darin Reece and his crew prepared for the start of the dayshift.
- Approximately 8:00 a.m., Mr. Reece and his crew members entered the mine.
- Approximately 9:08 a.m., Mr. Reece and the Dayshift crew arrived on the #3 Left Longwall Setup Section. This area had been previously pre-shifted at approximately 5:00 a.m. to 5:29 a.m., with no hazards observed.
- Approximately 9:08 a.m., Alan Bonamo, Garrett Tingley, and Justin Wade, Scoop Operators, performed the pre-operational check on the CAT #650-2007, CAT #650-1054 scoops and the Highland #3-555 scoop. The required weekly permissibility examinations were conducted on this equipment on March 31, 2026 with no dangerous conditions found.
- Approximately 9:10 a.m., Mr. Tingley trammed the CAT #650-1054 scoop down the #1-2 entry to the #3 Left Longwall Setup Face to set the #8 shield he was hauling.
- Approximately 9:20 a.m., Mr. Wade dropped the #34 shield from the #3-555 Highland scoop in the #1-2 crosscut and proceeded to the #3 crosscut to unload the shields the motor crew had delivered to the #3 Left Longwall Setup Section.
- Approximately 9:30 a.m., Mr. Reece, Mr. Bonamo and Travis Altmeyer, Spotter, attempted to load the #34 shield onto the duck bill of the CAT #650-2007 scoop, that was dropped on the mine floor in the #1-2 crosscut, when they realized the synthetic winch rope was caught between the winch reel and the winch bracket.
- Approximately 10:00 a.m., Mr. Reece instructed Mr. Altmeyer to go find a winch rope retaining bolt.
- Approximately 10:01 a.m., Mr. Reece accessed the top of the scoop and began working on the winch.
- Approximately 10:21 a.m., Mr. Tingley was traming the CAT #650-1054 Duck Bill Scoop, battery end first, from the #3 Left Longwall Setup Face to the #1-2 crosscut, when he contacted the #34 shield that was positioned on the duck bill of the CAT #650-2007 scoop, crushing Mr. Reece between the shield and the glancer bar of the #650-2007 CAT scoop.
- Approximately 10:22 a.m., the Dayshift crew members located on the #3 Left Longwall Setup Face, heard the call for help on the radio and proceeded to the #1-2 crosscut to provide assistance in removing the shield from Mr. Reece and to help render first aid.
- Approximately 10:32 a.m., Mr. Reece was loaded and transported by Bryan Rankin, Cody Holland and Lance Rossini, Longwall Maintenance Coordinator, on the diesel-powered mantrip from the #3 Left Longwall Setup Section towards the mine portal elevator.

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- Approximately 10:34 a.m., at the #31 Block, Eric Costello, EMT, boarded the diesel-powered mantrip that was carrying Mr. Reece, to help provide first aid.
  - Approximately 10:35 a.m., Jason Collins, Dispatcher, called 911 for assistance and the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security Mine and Industrial Accident Rapid Response System were notified of the accident.
  - Approximately 10:38 a.m., around the #3 Left Headgate switch area, Sloan Geho, EMT, boarded the diesel-powered mantrip to help Mr. Costello and Mr. Holland provide first aid to Mr. Reece.
  - Approximately 10:58 a.m., the diesel-powered mantrip carrying Mr. Reece arrived at the mine elevator and was transported onto the elevator.
  - Approximately 11:00 a.m., Mr. Reece arrived on the surface and the care of Mr. Reece was transferred to Dallas Volunteer Fire Department (Emergency Medical Services), Dallas, West Virginia.
  - Mr. Reece was pronounced deceased by Dr. Matthew Davis at 11:18 a.m.

## Findings of Fact

1. Mr. Reece was an employee of Ohio County Coal Resources, Ohio County Mine, for eleven (11) years and eight (8) months, with a total mining experience of eighteen (18) years. His job classification was Section Supervisor.
2. Mr. Reece possessed a West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training (WVOMHS&T) Underground Coal Miner's certification number 4-13277, received on October 19, 2010.
3. Mr. Reece possessed a WVOMHS&T Assistant Underground Mine Foreman certification number 3455A, received on November 13, 2015.
4. Mr. Reece received Foreman Task Training on January 8, 2026.
5. Mr. Reece worked 6 days a week, Monday – Saturday Swing Shift, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., and from 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
6. Mr. Bonamo, Scoop Operator, possesses a WVOMHS&T Underground Coal Miner's certification number 1-26671, received on June 19, 2025.
7. Mr. Bonamo has been an employee of Ohio County Coal Resources, Ohio County Mine, for eight (8) months.
8. Mr. Bonamo received Task Training for the CAT scoop on November 13, 2025.
9. Mr. Tingley possesses a WVOMHS&T Underground Coal Miner's certification number 1-25506, received on February 27, 2023.
10. Mr. Tingley has been an employee of Ohio County Coal Resources, Ohio County Mine, for three (3) years and five (5) months, with a total mining experience of three (3) years and nine (9) months. His job classification is Scoop Operator.
11. Mr. Tingley received Task Training for the CAT scoop on October 18, 2024.
12. The CAT #650-2007 and the CAT #650-1054 scoops are designed to haul shields on and off of the longwall face.
13. Mr. Costello possesses a WVOMHS&T EMT-M certification number 5187 received on August 29, 2023.

14. Mr. Costello has been an employee of Ohio County Coal Resources, Ohio County Mine, for four (4) years and six (6) months, with a total mining experience of four (4) years and six (6) months.
15. Mr. Geho possesses a WVOMHS&T EMT-M certification number 5188 received on August 29, 2023.
16. Mr. Geho has been an employee of Ohio County Coal Resources, Ohio County Mine, for eleven (11) years and eleven (11) months, with a total mining experience of twelve (12) years.
17. The CAT #650-2007 scoop was parked in the #3 Left Longwall Setup Face, haulage entry #1 to #2 crosscut, when the shield that it was hauling was contacted by the CAT #650-1054 scoop.
18. Mr. Tingley was operating the CAT #650-1054 scoop when it backed into the #34 longwall shield that was sitting on the duck bill of the CAT #650-2007 scoop.
19. During the investigation, no evidence was found indicating cones, strobe lights, extension rods or any other type of visibility-enhancing equipment having been in use while the CAT #650-2007 scoop was stopped in the crosscut.

## Conclusion

Mr. Darin Reece accessed the top of the scoop while working on the winch. He received fatal injuries after the #650-1054 CAT scoop collided with the #34 shield that was on the duck bill of the #650-2007 CAT scoop. This collision caused Mr. Reece to be crushed between the shield and the glancer bar on the #650-2007 CAT scoop.

## Enforcement Action

In accordance with W.Va. Code §22A-2-68, following an accident at the Ohio County Mine that resulted in a death of a miner on April 3, 2026, a non-assessed order was issued for the accident scene preservation until West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training completed this investigation.

One (1) contributing violation was issued during this investigation.

Three (3) non-contributing violations were issued during this investigation.

## Acknowledgement

The West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of the management and employees of the Ohio County Coal Resources, Ohio County Mine and the Mine Safety and Health Administration during the investigation.

## Mine Information

Company: Ohio County Coal Resources

Mine Name: Ohio County Mine

WV Permit: D00004791B

Address: 1107 Golden Ridge Road, Dallas, WV, 26036

County: Ohio County

Date Permit Issued: September 16, 2025 Working Status: Active

Union: X Non-Union \_\_\_\_\_

Daily Production: 17,042

Annual Production to Date: 1,111,778

Total Employees: 496 Number of Shifts: 3

Name of Coal Seam and Thickness: Pittsburgh - 8 Feet

Accident Incident Rate: (2025 – 5.86) (2026 – 6.36) Lost Time Accidents: (2025 – 34) (2026 - 9)

Type of Haulage: Track, Rubber-Tired Equipment and Belt Conveyor System

WVOMHS&T Inspector: Chris Ray / Charlie Sims

Date of Last Inspection: March 31, 2026

Notified by: Homeland Security

Time of Notification: 10:35 a.m.

CMSP – Contact Person: Matt Cunningham

## Victim Information

Name of Victim: Darin Reece

Age of Victim: 36 years

Total Mining Experience: 18 years

Experience at This Mine: 11 years 8 months

Average Number of Days Worked Per Week: 6

Average Number of Hours Worked Per Week: 48 hours

Length of Shifts at Mine: 8 hours

Travel Time To/From Work: 43 Minutes

Occupation at Time of Accident: Section Supervisor

Regular Occupation: Section Supervisor

Miner's Certification: 4-13277

Other Certifications: 3455A

Date of Accident: 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of: April 2026

At: 10:30 O'clock: a.m.

Location of Accident: #3 Left Longwall Setup Face, #2 Crosscut