



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
Cecil H. Underwood, Governor

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## Memorandum

**To:** Inspectors-at-Large  
Inspectors

**From:** Ron Harris, Director *Ron Harris*

**Date:** September 22, 1998

**Re:** Working Inby Permanent Supports to Rescue  
Another Miner who has been Struck by Fallen  
Roof or Rib

It has come to my attention after reviewing some of the roof fall fatalities we have had this year that the persons attempting to rescue the miner(s) who were under fallen roof/rib have placed themselves in unsafe positions by being inby permanent supports. In our daily contacts with miners we need to make everybody aware of this unsafe act. Everyone realizes the importance of getting fallen roof/rib off an individual as quickly as possible but we cannot forget that the roof can fall again. Please caution everyone about this.

Let's hope we never have another roof fall accident, but if we do, we definitely need to guard against getting miners hurt trying to rescue a miner who has been struck by falling roof or rib. Again, let's make this a priority to discuss as we make contacts on our inspections.

RLH:ks

cc: Gary Ball  
Doug Conaway  
Terry Farley  
Randall Kidd