

Safety Alert

Highwall Failure Accident

On September 30, 2024, a miner sustained permanently disabling injuries while operating a Caterpillar 992K front-end loader (FEL) beneath a highwall. A roughly 50-ft. section of highwall fell onto the FEL crushing the cab and pinning the miner's legs under the dashboard.



A FEL operator was seriously injured when a section of highwall fell onto the CAT 992K FEL while operating next to a highwall.



A large rock from the collapsed highwall crushing the FEL front cab pinning the miner's legs under the dash.

Best Practices

- **Develop and follow procedures** for the safe control of all highwalls where miners work and travel in close proximity to the highwall.
- **Train miners to recognize highwall hazards.**
- **Conduct highwall examinations** and eliminate hazards (loose rocks, overhangs, trees, etc.) prior to working or traveling near the highwall. Examine highwalls from multiple perspectives (bottom, sides and top/crest). Examine highwalls more frequently after rain events and periods of freezing and thawing.
- **Use auxiliary lighting** during low light conditions to conduct highwall examinations and illuminate active work areas.
- **Never park equipment, perform maintenance or store materials beneath the highwall.**

Report accidents and hazardous conditions: 1-800-746-1553

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