

To
Owners, Agents & Managers
of All Coal Mines.

Sub: Accidents due to blown through shots in coal mines during blasting operations belowground.

Blown through shots still continue to be the common cause of fatal accident in belowground coal mines, despite clear safety provisions being laid down in the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 and circulars issued on the subject by DGMS from time to time. Analysis of such type of accidents revealed that unsafe acts and practice lead to such accidents.

Recently there had been an accident in a coal mine due to blown through shots in a development face causing fatal injuries to three drillers. Inquiry into the accident revealed that while two working faces had approached within 1.8m of each other and a round of shots was fired in one of the faces, without withdrawing persons from the other, blasting projectiles from the blown through shot struck, buried and killed the three drillers immediately.

Your attention is invited to Regulation 170(1) & (3) of the CMR' 1957, and DGMS(Tech)(S&T) Circular No.4 of 1996 which lays down in details the precautions that are required to be taken to prevent accidents due to explosives, including blown through shots. I am to request you to take immediate steps as may be deemed fit for compliance of the aforesaid provisions which will go a long way in prevention of such type of accident in future.