

To
The Owners, Agents and Managers
of all Coal and Metalliferous Mines.

Sub: Accident due to misfired charges.

Accidents due to misfired charges continue to occur in mines even though clear and detailed precautions have been stipulated in the statute and Circulars issued from time to time. Recently two such accidents took place due to this cause and persons received serious injuries. These accidents are described below: -

Case1. In an underground coal mine while a coal cutter was digging floor in a blasted muck for making buffer hole by a pick axe, the misfired shot of earlier blast got exploded inflicting injuries on faces and eyes to the shot firer and another coal cutter standing near by.

Case2. In another underground coal mine while four coal cutters were engaged in drilling holes from over the top of a coal heap covering a portion of the face in a development district, the drill rod came in contact with the misfired charge of the previous blast and the charge exploded. The coal cutter and one of his helpers sustained serious injuries when hit by flying fragments projected by the blast.

The investigations into the above accidents revealed that the blasted material and loose rocks were not removed from the floor before digging into the floor by a pick axe in the first case and all the coal from the face were not cleaned before drilling further round of shot holes in the second case.

The investigations also revealed that the site of accidents was not carefully examined for the presence of misfires.

The above accidents and injuries could have been avoided if the safety provisions as provided for by Regulation 178(a) of Coal Mines Regulation 1957 & DGMS Tech. Circular No.2 of 1983 were complied with.

It is, therefore, advised to all concerned to ensure that the precautions stipulated for eliminating such

accidents are strictly complied with and also a suitable code of practice mentioning specific duties of shot firer/blaster, sirdar/mate and Overman/foreman shall be formulated and enforced so that similar accidents do not recur.

(A.K.Rudra.)

Director General of Mines Safety.