

HATFIELD HOTLINE

British
COAL

JULY 1992

WE MUST BUILD SECURITY!

The last month saw us in what could be described as our worst period. The holiday week and the weeks before and after proved frustrating. Obviously, we need to allow more holidays during the summer period, but those of us at work are fully stretched to cover all the necessary jobs.

We are all aware performance must be improved. We have to step up the momentum no matter what problems are encountered. We must work together to eliminate them.

103's unit is now reaching the end of its life. On completion we will move to 110's which, because of its preparation, should exceed any performance from an advancing face at this colliery.

We have already started introducing men to 110's enabling everyone to be fully conversant with the face operations before we actually "switch on".

121's should be able to continue its reasonable run, even though we are encountering problems now that the unit has advanced 650 metres.

Our best vigilance and attention to detail are needed to ensure we maintain the resources of men, materials and motivation to keep this face contributing its regular 20,000 metres of cutting, equating to 20,000 tonnes.

Our colliery needs this tonnage to remain on the park, in the game and scoring.

On a more direct note, the wearing of safety glasses or goggles will be



insisted upon ('from baths to baths') by the time this newsletter is published.

I am aware that these are already carried by everyone but we still have a high incidence of eye injuries. These have been reported at the rate of 16 per month, equating to one eye injury every other day.

We must, therefore, act. Every accident of this type is a potential sight loss, therefore, we must be positive.

From the 1st August I will insist that everybody **WEARS** eye protection.

Another high incidence injury category is to the hands. Again, I will be asking you all to obtain gloves to reduce this type of accident and whilst I would not expect them to be worn all the time, I will expect them

to be worn for the majority of the working shift.

INJURIES DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS

EYE INJURIES 50
(15 per cent of all accidents)

HAND INJURIES 89
(27 per cent of all accidents).

Just to complete this section on personal safety, I would like to remind you of the use of ear protection in the appropriate zones. Remember, the damage to your hearing may only be gradual – but it certainly will be permanent.

You will all, no doubt, consider some or all of these items as a nuisance or an imposition but, you need to keep yourselves safe and healthy to support your families and to pursue your social activities.

Over the last three months, 50 working days have been lost through accidents, one manshift lost every other day.

We need you to keep yourselves safe. By doing so we can ensure this colliery realises its potential and in doing so builds security, for us all, in the future.

Jeff Ainley,
colliery manager.

OUTPUT AND FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR JUNE

	MONTH	CUMULATIVE
Total saleable output	88,000	204,500
Average daily tonnes	3,667	3,352
O.M.S. overall	8.20	7.42
Operating cash cost per gigajoule (£)	1.26	1.47

FLAMEPROOF APPARATUS

Cable entry into flameproof apparatus can be either direct or indirect.

With direct entry the cable terminates in the main enclosure, which houses the electrical components and normally sparking elements.

Indirect entry either terminates in a separate terminal chamber or via a plug and socket arrangement.

There must be no confusion between direct or indirect cables entries. The following example explains the difference.

The incoming cable to a gate end box is normally via a half coupler and adaptor, the outgoing via a plug and socket. Both are classified as indirect entry (see appendix 1 and 2).

If any member of the electrical staff is unsure, then please contact your assistant or deputy engineer who will provide the relevant information.

Steve Havenhand, unit electrical engineer.

APPENDIX 1

DIRECT ENTRY

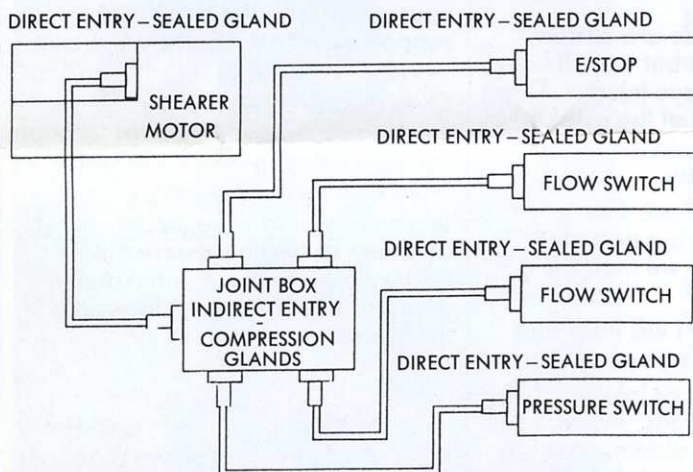
ENTRY VIA CABLE GLAND INTO ENCLOSURE WHERE SPARKING CAN OCCUR DURING NORMAL OPERATION.

INDIRECT ENTRY

ENTRY VIA CABLE GLAND INTO ENCLOSURE WHERE SPARKING WILL NOT OCCUR DURING NORMAL OPERATION.

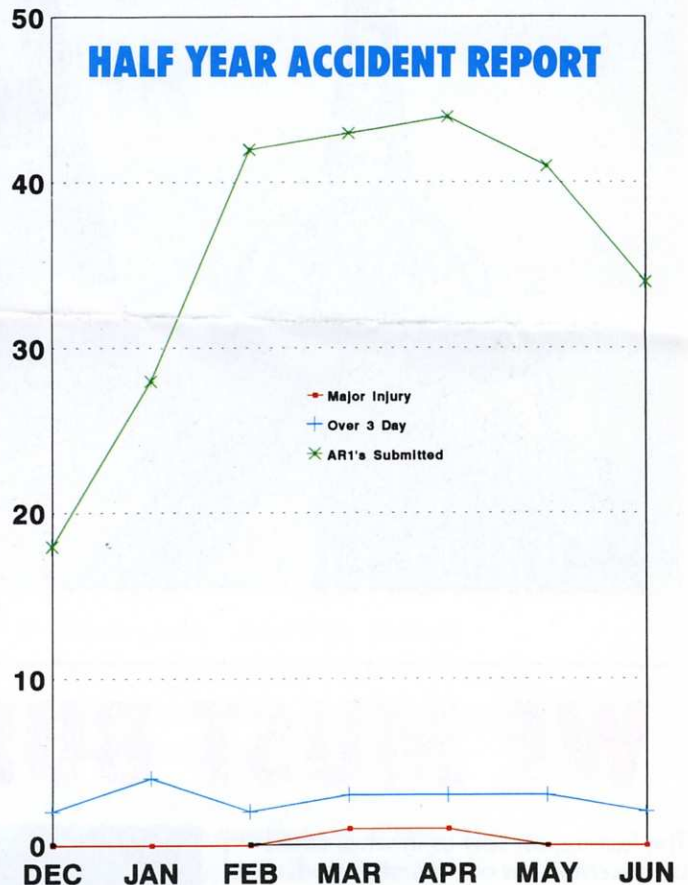
APPENDIX 2

EXAMPLE OF DIRECT & INDIRECT ENTRY



NOTE: Direct gland Hawk 6/470/653 or equivalent.
Indirect gland Hawk G/470/453 or equivalent.

ACCIDENT UPDATE



The graph shows a worsening accident trend up to April. Since then the trend has improved.

As shown in the list below, the slipping type of accident is the worst category. This type accounts for more than half our reportable accidents.

So tread carefully and let's stride our way to Hatfield having the best accident record in the industry.

Falls of ground

Three days or less	28
Over three days	1
Major	1
Total	30

Falling objects

Three days or less	28
Over three days	1
Total	29

Haulage and transport

Three days or less	13
Major	1
Total	14

Use of tools & appliances

Three days or less	7
Total	7

Handling supplies

Three days or less	10
Over three days	1
Total	11

Stumbling, falling & slipping

Three days or less	83
Over three days	11
Total	94

Total other causes

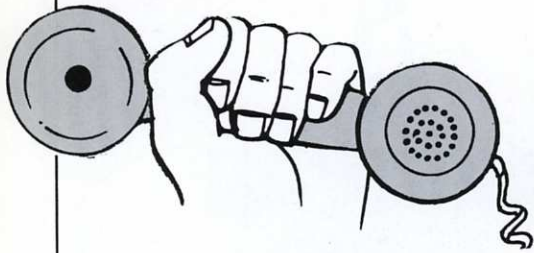
Three days or less	31
Over three days	2
Total	33

Total all categories

234

Phillip Bainbridge, safety officer.

ABSENCE LINE



First of all, I would like to congratulate everyone for their help in reducing Hatfield's absence to below 5 per cent. However, I know we can reduce it even further with a little more effort from a small minority.

Remember, any person who is going to be absent for a shift or more, for whatever reason (sick, lame or lazy), **MUST** ring the "Absence line" and give information as detailed on their personal plastic card.

Anyone not complying with this procedure will be marked voluntary absent, and will not be able to cover himself with a yellow self certificate or a rest day.

Alwyn Mills, personnel manager.

'EE LAD, WHAT THE 'ELLS HYDROCARBON DEGREASANT?'

Well, it's not spring water that's for sure, as a miner found to his cost. No, he did not die but could have if not for the speedy medical attention he received.

This situation, where a miner drank degreasant from a bottle marked "Spring water" should never have happened. In fact, this substance should never have been underground.

The obvious message to be learned from this unfortunate experience is not to transfer substances to secondary containers unless the new containers have been correctly labelled with the details of the substance.

So think before you drink – before you die! (or as he put it "PLAHHA").

Sister Davies, colliery nursing officer.

STATING THE OBVIOUS

I shouldn't have to state the obvious, but I will.

Anyone found fighting on colliery premises will face instant dismissal.

My remainder comes following an incident at a South Yorkshire pit, which I do not wish to see repeated.

Alwyn Mills, personnel manager.

Planned Maintenance

In order to take this colliery into the next century, I am optimistic that by the end of the year plant records will be computerised.

However, computer systems are only as good as the information put into them and this is where I need the craftsmen's help.

Many of the ME4 checklists are incomplete due to missing plant numbers. It would help us, you, and the pit, if in the normal course of your duties you could record the missing numbers on ME4 and ME5 reports.

Finally to improve efficiency, ME4 checklists should be returned, to the engineers, Monday morning at the latest for counter signature. Sheets not received in plant records by Tuesday morning will not be included in the weekly statistics (i.e. form 2) and periodic exams may be recorded as overdue.

Phil Ryan, head of plant records.

LONG TERM SICKNESS

Just a few lines to jog everyone's memory regarding the procedure for starting work after a period of illness of eight weeks or more.

It is the responsibility of the individual to inform the personnel manager of his intention to resume work, in order that arrangements can be made for his checks to be released or for the person to see British Coal's medical officer to ascertain his fitness.

No checks will be issued unless this procedure is followed.

Alwyn Mills, personnel manager.

'INNOVATION'

The surface mechanical department have changed the arrangement of No.2 shaft surface full side rail stop arrangement due to the inaccessability of the original.

This modification gives them the ability to change any defective part of the stops quickly and efficiently.

The photograph shows Keith Mills, foreman fitter, Colin Taylor, surface fitter and Brian "BOMBER" Gilliat, joiner with the new rail stop arrangement being tested before installation.

Barry Webster, mechanical engineer.



CLEAN AIR

Is this you now?



All too often we see drivages and face return airways with an atmosphere similar to the cartoon on the left. Tolerating this will lead to health problems (pneumoconiosis) and you could end up as the poor fellow on the right.

DON'T STAND FOR IT – CURE IT



This could be you later!

All the equipment is provided, so use it.

- Check picks – are they sharp?
- Check sprays – are they working?
- Check ventilation – is there enough?
- Check horizon – is it correct?

If the answer to any of the above is no, then cure it immediately. Clean the air and keep a clean bill of health.

Phillip Bainbridge, safety officer.



A JOB WELL DONE!

Following the annual examination of the headgear pulley, shaft and bearings, it was decided to change both sets at No.1 shaft at the earliest possible opportunity.

British Coal and Markham Limited Engineers, with the aid of a 120 ton crane, lifted out the old pulley and shaft assembly weighing 10 tons.

The new headgear pulley and shaft assembly are lifted and guided into position.

The exercise was completed in two 12 hour shifts as planned.

The planning, organisation and execution of the work is a credit to all persons concerned.

Barry Webster, mechanical engineer.