

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINING ENFORCEMENT AND SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

District 7

REPORT OF UNDERGROUND COAL MINE INVESTIGATION

FATAL ROOF-FALL ACCIDENT

SEGCO NO. 1 MINE (I.D. 01-00347)
ALABAMA BY-PRODUCTS CORPORATION
PARRISH, WALKER COUNTY, ALABAMA

October 11, 1977

By

Harlan E. Blanton, Sr.
Federal Coal Mine Inspector

Originating Office - Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration
Birmingham, Alabama 35209
John E. Weekly, Subdistrict Manager
Birmingham, Alabama Subdistrict, Coal Mine Health and Safety, District 7

REPORT OF UNDERGROUND COAL MINE INVESTIGATION

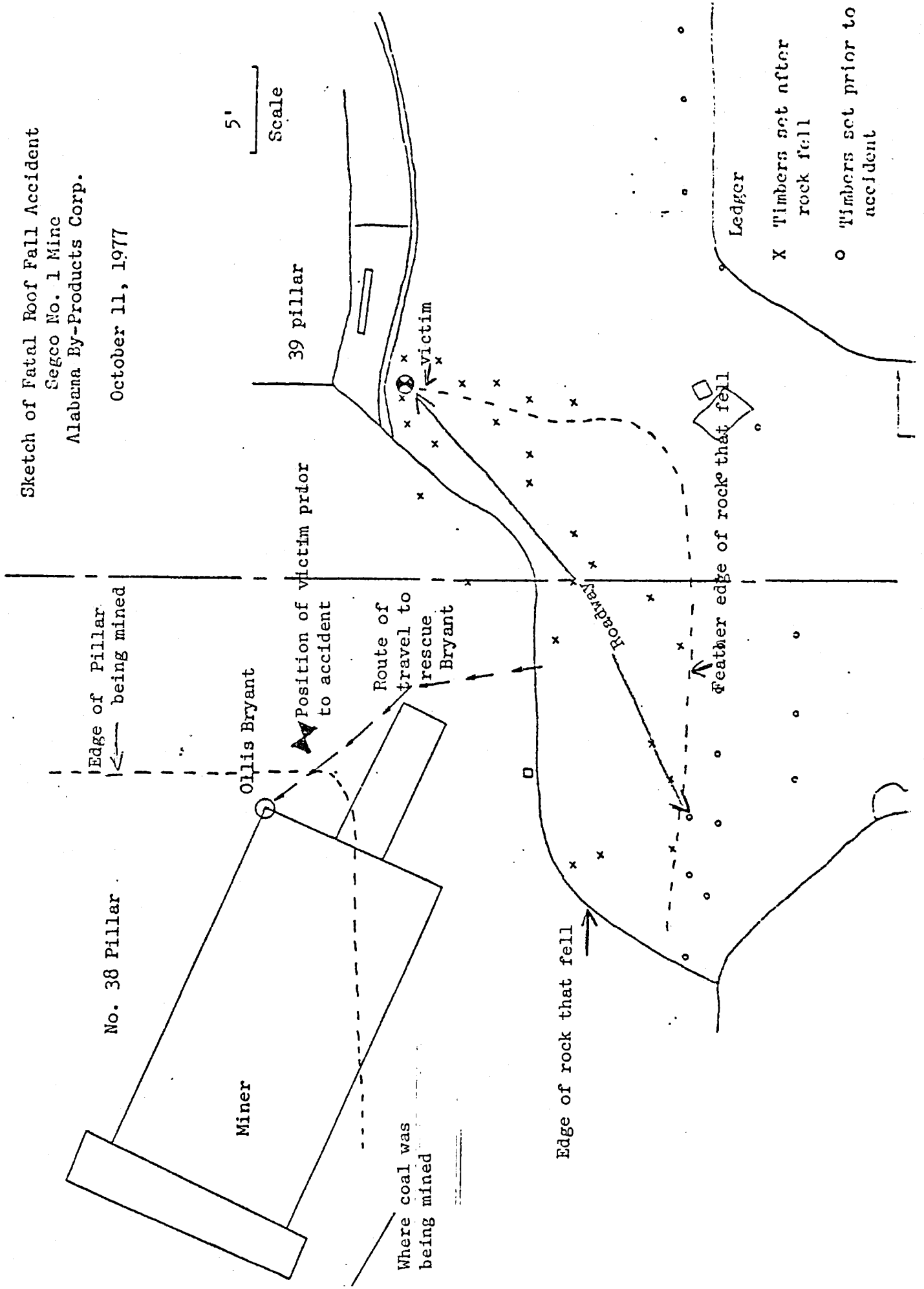
FATAL ROOF-FALL ACCIDENT

SEGCO NO. 1 MINE (I.D. 01-00347)
ALABAMA BY-PRODUCTS CORPORATION
PARRISH, WALKER COUNTY, ALABAMA

October 11, 1977

Sketch of Fatal Roof Fall Accident
 Segco No. 1 Mine
 Alabama By-Products Corp.

October 11, 1977



Title of Investigation:
FATAL ROOF-FALL INVESTIGATION

Mine Information

Daily Production 1800
Surface Employment 65
Underground Employment 417
Thickness of Coalbed 54 inches

Report Date: October 18, 1977

Mine: Segco No. 1 Mine

Mine I.D. Number: 01-00347

Company: Alabama By-Products Corp.

Town, County, State: Parrish, Walker County,
Alabama

Author(s):
Harlan E. Blanton, Sr.

Last Quarter Disabling Injury Frequency
Rate (HSAC) for:
Industry 33.68
This Operation 29.09
Training Program Approved yes

Originating office - Mining Enforcement
and Safety Administration Coal Mine
Health and Safety District 7

Authority - This report is based on an
investigation made pursuant to the
Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act
of 1969 (83 Stat. 742)

Address: 228 West Valley Avenue
Birmingham, Alabama 35209

Abstract

On Tuesday, October 11, 1977, about 9:30 a.m. a roof-fall accident occurred in the No. 38 pillar, 1 Rt-045 section of the Segco No. 1 Mine, Alabama By-Products Corporation which resulted in the death of Brady Kilpatrick, section foreman. The roof fall occurred during pillar recovery operations. Kilpatrick was observing the moving of the continuous miner back from a push-out when the fall occurred. The victim started running from the fall area when he apparently tripped and fell to the mine floor. At the same time, a piece of rock (2 feet x 2 feet x 3 inches and feather edged) fell from the mine roof and struck the victim on the head and apparently killed him instantly.

Information for this report was compiled through a MESA Investigation that was started October 11, 1977.

Name

Address

Company officials:

President Fred G. Koenig, Post Office Box 10246 Birmingham, Alabama 35202

Superintendent Ralph Stucky Goodsprings, Alabama

Safety Director Walter Holt Goodsprings, Alabama

Principal officer - H&S Ralph Stucky Goodsprings, Alabama

Labor Organization UMWA

Chairman - H&S Committee Sammy Key, Route 1, Box 93 Cordova, Alabama 35550

COMMENTARY

On Tuesday, October 11, 1977, the 1 Rt. -045 section crew, under the supervision of Brady Kilpatrick (foreman) traveled to the working section. They arrived about 7:30 a.m., whereupon Kilpatrick examined the area and normal production was started in the No. 38 pillar block. The pillar face in the area was mined down to a push-out on the left side. First, a shuttle car of coal was loaded from the roadway, then five cars of coal were mined from the push-out which completed the mining of that pillar block. According to George Thompson (roof bolter), the miner operated by Ollis Bryant was being trammed back when the timbers started cracking and Kilpatrick, who was on the right side of the miner, ran to the corner of the crosscut at No. 39 pillar and apparently tripped and fell. After he had fallen, a piece of rock (2 feet x 2 feet x 3 inches in thickness, and feather-edged) fell and struck Kilpatrick on the head. The piece of rock, that struck the victim, fell from an area adjacent to the pillar line, but outby the pillar fall.

Thompson and Lonnie Key (general laborers) went to Kilpatrick and removed the rock. They examined Kilpatrick and found no sign of life. They then heard Bryant calling from under the fallen rock that he needed help. The rest of the crew arrived on the scene and placed Kilpatrick on a stretcher and transported him to the surface and then to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Work was started simultaneously to free Bryant. Hydraulic jacks, timbers, and crib-blocks were used to raise the rock in order to provide sufficient height to remove Bryant from under the fallen rock (pillar fall). Bryant was removed in about 2 1/2 hours from under the fallen rock and found to be uninjured. A large amount of rock caved at the time of the accident, but the particular section of rock that fell on the continuous miner measured 35 feet x 30 feet x 04 feet to 10 feet.

DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

1. Observation of the accident scene during the investigation revealed that the roof fall extended outby the corner of the right side of the intersection of No. 38 and No. 39 pillar block of coal. According to the crew members, at the crack of the timbers, the roof fell without any other warning.
2. Bryant stated he examined the roof in the area of the push-out a short time prior to the accident; and at the time of the accident, the roof was sound.
3. In the case of this accident, the roof fall extended about 5 feet outby the normal break-line. It is also possible that Kilpatrick might have thought the roof fall was not imminent, since the roof in the retreat mining areas "works" for varying lengths of time before the fall actually occurs.
4. The rock fell 5 feet outby the normal break-line.
5. The adopted roof support plan required timbers to be set on 4-foot centers maintaining a 18-foot wide roadway.

FINDING OF FACT

1. The widths of the No. 09 room roadway were in excess of 18 feet in width. A violation of section 75.200.
2. The roadway was 24 feet in width.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT

The cause of the accident was management's failure to properly examine, evaluate, and adequately support the mine roof.

APPENDIX

The investigation was conducted by the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration and those persons present during the investigation were:

Alabama By-Products Corporation

Walter Holt	Safety Director
M. E. McAlpine	Division Superintendent
Ralph Stuckey	Superintendent
Paul Busby	Assistant Superintendent
Edgar Smith	Mine Foreman
Howard Vintson	Assistant Mine Foreman
John Nations	Section Foreman
Billy Rains	Section Foreman (Evening Shift)

United Mine Workers of America

Charles Fuller	Safety Coordinator
Sammy Key	Chairman, Mine Safety Committee
Donald Blaylock	Mine Safety Committee
Jim D. Mucher	Mine Safety Committee
Ollis A. Bryant	Miner Operator
Lonnie I. Key	Curtain Man
James L. Umphery	Electrician
Billy Joe Lee	Shuttle Car Operator
George Thompson	Roof Bolter
Phil Thompson	Roof Bolter

State Department of Industrial Relations

John W. Sandlin	Inspector
S. C. Smith, Jr.	Inspector

Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration

John E. Weekly	Subdistrict Manager
William H. Meadows	Supervisory Mining Engineer
Ronald Church	Mining Engineer
Kenneth Ely	Federal Coal Mine Inspector
Harlan E. Blanton, Sr.	Federal Coal Mine Inspector

Name Brady Kilpatrick Sex Male SSN 422-10-3227
Age 59 Job Classification Section Foreman Experience at this
Classification 7 years Total Mining Experience 22 years

What activity was being performed at time of accident? Section foreman

Victim's experience at this activity 7 years Was victim trained in
this task? yes

Health and Safety Courses/Training Received (Related to Accident) Date Received
Roof and Rib Control - Mine Ventilation

Supervisor Data (Supervisor of Victim)

Name Howard W. Vinton Certified: Yes No

Experience as Supervisor 26 years Total Mining Experience 36 years

Health and Safety Courses/Training Received Date Received
First Aid, Roof & Rib control, Ventilation, Methane detection and Oxygen
deficiency, Mine Rescue, Part 75 of the Regulations

When was the supervisor last present at accident scene prior to the accident?

Friday, October 7, 1977 What did he do when he was there?
visited the section and made all places

When was he last in contact with the victim? Tuesday, 7:00 a.m.

Did he issue instructions relative to the accident? no

Was he aware of or did he express an awareness of any unsafe practice or
condition? no

Was he involved in any activity other than supervision?

no