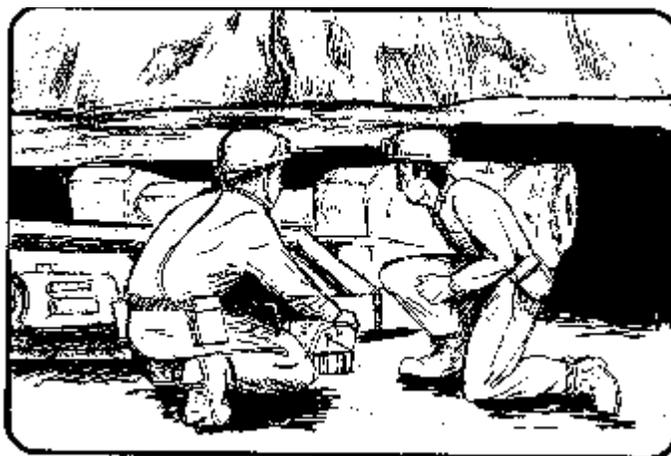




## 2004 SUMMER PROPR INITIATIVE

### “Hazards Associated With Pillaring”



### Room and Pillar Mining

- From 2000 to 2003, roof/rib falls accounted for 24 fatalities in underground coal mines. Four miners have been killed in this type of accident thus far in 2004.
- Seven (29 percent) of these 24 fatalities occurred during room- and-pillar retreat mining operations. The number of fatal accidents occurring on room-and-pillar retreat sections appears high when you consider that mines which use this mining method employ only around 19 percent of underground coal miners and account for about 18 percent of the underground coal production.
- These statistics indicate that more precautions must be taken when doing this type of mining.