

**DIVISION OF MINES GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF REGULATORY STANDARDS
MANUAL**

COAL MINE SAFETY ACT	CHAPTER 14.2
ARTICLE 7	MINE EXPLOSIONS; MINE FIRES; ACCIDENTS
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Section 45.1-161.77. A.

Reports of Explosions and Mines Fires

Appropriate Procedure Following Face Ignitions:

It is essential that appropriate action be taken at a mine following the occurrence of a methane ignition. The regulatory requirement to preserve the scene in order to perform an effective investigation must be weighed against the need for miners and the operator to control the potential hazards associated with and following an ignition. The following procedures should be promoted and are acceptable to DM in controlling the scene following an ignition. The procedures are not considered as altering the scene of an accident or hindering the investigation of the accident.

For Continuous Mining Sections

- Upon detection of an ignition, promptly extinguish the flame
- After extinguishing, back the continuous mining machine outby to the location that the ripper head will be at the third outby row of permanent support
- De-energize power to the machine
- Wet down the mine floor, face, and rib areas thoroughly
- Monitor area until the investigation is started
- Improve ventilation as necessary
- Search for fire

For Longwall Sections

- Upon detection of an ignition, promptly extinguish the flame
- After extinguishing, move the shear or plow a full shear's or plow's length from the ignition area
- De-energize power to the longwall system
- Wet down the mine floor and face areas thoroughly
- Monitor area until the investigation is started
- Improve ventilation as necessary
- Search for fire

The MSA under Section 45.1-161.78A requires that an ignition be reported to DM as an accident, and investigated promptly.