



## **Safety Alert: Issue Concerning the Caterpillar (Bucyrus) Model 30M3L Remote Control Continuous Miner Receiver when used with a Forced Potato Remote**

A Caterpillar (Bucyrus) Model 30M3L Remote Controlled Continuous Miner with a Forced Potato model LOKN remote was involved in a non-fatal accident. During the accident investigation, it was determined that the second remote controller kept on the working section on charge for this continuous miner was used to move the continuous miner immediately after the accident. However, it was determined that by having both controllers available on the section and set to the same frequency, a situation could exist with the possibility that either remote controller could take control of the same continuous miner when in the range of the receiver. This could become a danger and could lead to an unforeseen accident if a second controller was used without knowledge of the operator.

The problem occurs due to the fact that the continuous miner receiver will recognize the remote controller that has the higher battery voltage. Even though only one remote controller should be used and in the vicinity of the continuous miner at one time and the other remote should remain on charge or turned off, the possibility exists that both controllers can be active.

Caterpillar (Bucyrus) has developed a controller/receiver program that will detect the presence of more than one remote by reading each remote's unique transmitter ID code. Any time multiple remote transmitters are powered on and transmitting, the receiver on the continuous miner will respond to the presence of these multiple remotes by automatically deenergizing the pump circuit onboard the continuous miner.

Forced Potato will use the serial number of the remote as the unique transmitter ID code that is sent to the continuous miner's receiver.

MSHA recommends that mine operators who use the Caterpillar (Bucyrus) remote controlled continuous miners contact their Caterpillar (Bucyrus) representative concerning this upgrade.