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Identifying Trends in Underground Coal Mine Incidents Caused by Roof Falls

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Current technology and safety practices generally provide today's underground coal miner with a safe workplace in an unpredictable environment. However, incidents still occur and until the number of incidents resulting in injury or loss of life reaches zero, there will always be room for improving methods and technology used by the modern coal miner. This study analyzes underground coal mine incidents caused by roof falls. Information provided by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) was analyzed for trends in factors that contribute to roof fall fatalities in underground coal mines. Identification of major contributing factors will allow for a focused approach to selecting new technology and practices as interventions to keep the underground coal mining workplace free of injury.

Cary is a sophomore attending the University of Missouri-Rolla majoring in Mining Engineering. He is the son of Tom and Susan Cooper and is from Ponchatoula, Louisiana. On campus he is the active president of the International Society of Explosives Engineers (ISEE), a member of the Society of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers (SME), and a member of Kappa Sigma. After graduation, Cary plans on pursuing a career in the mining industry.