Entries are cleaned of combustible material before rock-dusting is begun. In rooms, waste material is gobbed on one side, but the opposite side of the track is kept free from excess dust and lumps. Several mining machines are equipped with tanks to hold water to be applied on the cutter bars during cutting of coal.

Back entries are swept with brooms before they are dusted for the first time by blowing dust into the air at break-throughs, allowing dust to be carried by the air stream.

Haulage entries and rooms in this mine were rock-dusted by a rock-dusting machine in 1924 and 1925. Dust was blown into the main air courses, but it was thought that not enough dust was deposited on roof and ribs to give full protection. In December 1937 a high-pressure rock-dusting machine was purchased and dusting of trackless entries was begun.

Limestone dust is purchased with a guarantee of 98 percent calcium carbonate and a fineness of 85 percent through 200-mesh. The dust is delivered in paper bags containing 80 pounds each.

The rock-dusting crew consists of two men, one of whom is a certified fire boss. He enters a working place and makes an examination for gas before the rock-dusting machine enters. The two rock-dusting machines in use at the mine are permissible, but the management does not wish to take unnecessary risks, and this is excellent safety procedure.

The crew applies dust about 3 days per week. Average coverage of surface with rock dust for one 7-hour shift is 350 feet of trackless entry and 6,600 feet on haulage roads. This also includes rooms, which are dusted by machine. No hand-dusting is done at this mine. Some sections of the roadway are wet, but these sections are rock-dusted when the rest of the area is dusted.

The main air courses were rock-dusted with a high-pressure distributor about 2 years ago and still are well coated. A 6-inch pipe line has been laid on the bottom of the road bed since the application was finished, but about 3/4 inch of air-borne coal dust has settled on the pipe. Perhaps the extensive application of rock dust helps to offset any air-borne coal dust in these entries.

The mine foreman is charged with designating points to be sampled. An engineer collects the samples and determines the incombustible content. About 10 samples are collected each week.

The results are noted in the special book provided by the State, and a report is made direct to the superintendent, with a copy each to the general superintendent and the safety engineer. The mine foreman is required to countersign the record book.