

MNM Close Call Accident Alert

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) publishes incident reports from mine sites throughout the United States. These reports are aimed at increasing awareness of mine-site hazards as well as outlining best safety practices. Following are two recent incidents showcasing common potential hazards on surface mine sites such as gravel pits.

Flying Debris

In January, a miner was operating an excavator equipped with a rock breaker attachment to break up large boulders. A rock penetrated the right-side window of the cab and struck the excavator operator in the head. A nearby front-end loader operator noticed that the excavator operator was slumped over the controls and called for help. The victim was unresponsive for approximately twenty minutes before medical help arrived. The victim was transported and diagnosed with a severe concussion.

Best Practices

- Establish and discuss safe work procedures before beginning work. Identify and control all hazards associated with the work to be performed and the methods to properly protect persons. Task train all persons in safe work procedures.
- When breaking oversized material, it is always better to break the ends or at a crack.
- To avoid injury from flying chips of stone, be sure others stay well away from the breaker when it is operating.
- Ensure that the machine is equipped with the necessary glass protection from flying material.

Crusher Accident

Last October, a miner was working on clearing a jammed primary crusher. While using an air hammer to break up a large rock, another rock became dis-

lodged and slid down, pinning the miner's feet. After being pinned for nearly an hour, the victim was freed and taken to a nearby hospital for observation.

Best Practices

- Establish policies and follow manufacturer's recommended procedures for conducting specific tasks on crushers. Implement measures to ensure miners are positioned safely and protected from hazards while performing the task.
- Task train persons to recognize all potential hazardous conditions and to understand safe job procedures for elimination of the hazards before beginning work.
- Do not work below unsecured material.
- Remove excess material by mechanical means where possible before the cause of the blockage can be dealt.
- When removal of material by hand is necessary, the crusher and associated plant must be stopped and isolated
- Manual removal should only be carried out by suitably trained and competent persons

What This Means for Counties

Maintaining a safe worksite is the responsibility of all employees. Proper training and safety precautions are necessary to prevent the loss of time, equipment, and lives. CTSI offers a range of certified MSHA safety classes to help you maintain a safe jobsite and workforce. A list of available classes can be found at: www.ctsi.org/lpclasses/ClassList.pdf. Please contact CTSI Loss Prevention at 303 861 0507 to schedule a class. 