

MSHA 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.

Trapped by Excavator

Last April, an excavator operator was trapped in the cab for several minutes after material from a bank fell engulfing the excavator. The miner suffered injuries to his arm.

Best Practices

- Train all persons to recognize adverse conditions and environmental factors that can decrease high-wall stability and understand safe job procedures to eliminate all hazards before beginning work.
- Examine highwalls and material piles from as many perspectives as possible (bottom, sides, and top/crest) while maintaining the safety of the examiners. Look for cracking, displacement, or other signs of distress.
- Maintain safe access to the top of highwalls so thorough examinations can be conducted.
- Perform supplemental examinations of highwalls, banks, benches, and sloping terrain in the working area during and following inclement weather.
- Immediately remove all personnel exposed to hazardous ground conditions, barricade and post signs to prevent entry, and promptly correct unsafe conditions.
- Use mining methods that ensure highwall and bank stability and safe working conditions. Avoid undercutting and/or over steepening of the highwall or bank slope. Mine only material that freely flows down.

Falling Front-end Loader

A tire contractor was seriously injured when the front-end loader he was repairing fell on him. The front-end loader had been lifted and placed on cribbing to repair a flat tire. The contractor was underneath the loader adjusting one of the lifting jacks when the cribbing shifted causing the loader to fall. The tire contractor was struck and his hard hat became wedged between the cribbing and loader frame.

Best Practices

- Ensure that blocking material is competent, substantial, and adequate to support and stabilize the load.
- Establish and discuss safe work procedures.
- Examine work areas and identify and control all hazards before starting any work.
- Make sure proper tools and equipment are used to complete the job.
- Do not place yourself in a position that will expose you to hazards while performing a task.
- Monitor personnel routinely to determine that safe work procedures are followed.
- Maintain good communication between co-workers.
- Ensure that your contractors have received the appropriate task training.

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. Please contact CTSI Loss Prevention at 303 861 0507 to schedule a class. [ctsi](http://www.ctsi.org)