



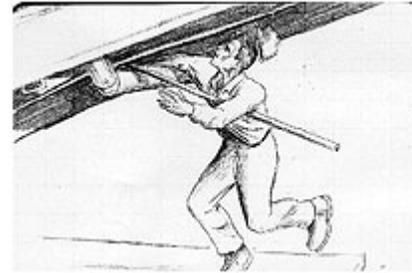
MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Safety Idea

Safety and
Health are
Values!

Conveyor Belts Move Faster Than You Can

In a recent six year period, 21 miners died in conveyor-belt accidents. The leading cause of these accidents was trying to remove material sticking to a roller or pulley while the belt was running. Consider the following:

- In these fatal accidents, belt speeds were typically in the range of 300 to 500 feet per minute (fpm). This means the belt was moving from 5 to over 8 feet per second.
- For the average person, the time needed to react to an unexpected sensation is about one second.



Putting these facts together shows why working near a running conveyor belt is so dangerous. Even at 300 fpm, in that one second that the average person needs to react, the belt moves over the pulleys and rollers a distance of 5 feet. That's far enough to draw your tool, your loose clothing, gloved or bare hand and arm, into a pinch point before you can react.

Take these tips to work with you:

- Don't take chances around a conveyor belt.
- Don't perform work that will expose you to a pinch point, like clearing caked material from a roller, while a belt is in operation.
- Only work on a conveyor that is locked and tagged out.
- If you are working near a stopped belt, and a start-up warning is given, stop what you're doing and get clear!
- Never cross a moving belt.
- Always cross at a bridge or designated crossing point.

Issued:	03/10/2005
Tag #	AP2005 - 89669