

METAL / NONMETAL

Serious Accident

Portland Cement Facility – A process control supervisor with six weeks of experience at this facility entered a waste dust discharge and collection area to unchoke a long, nearly-vertical 12-inch diameter pipe. When he struck the bottom of the pipe with a sledge hammer, fine material heated to over 1200°F flushed down the pipe and spilled over him. He suffered life-threatening burns.



Best Practices

- Barricade areas where hazards exist that are not immediately obvious.
- Post readily visible, legible warning signs at all approaches to hazardous areas. Signs should display the nature of the hazard and any protective action required.
- Develop written Safe Operating Procedures for all tasks, particularly those that may pose risks to miners' safety or health.
- Task train miners and follow Safe Operating Procedures.
- Stay out of the line of fire of hazardous materials that can discharge from process vessels or conveyance equipment.
- Provide and wear appropriate personal protective clothing, such as high-temperature protective jackets, pants, shoes and helmets, when handling or working around superheated materials.

