

## **Metal/Nonmetal Northeast District “Near Miss”**

### **Drilling Accident**

On April 21, 2009 a 26 year old drill operator with six months experience, was seriously injured while working at a surface mine. The miner was attempting to add an additional drill steel to a track-drill. While doing so, his clothing became entangled in the steel, resulting in the amputation of his right arm (just below the elbow) and causing several fractures to his left arm. He was able to make his way to his pickup truck where he tied a tourniquet around his upper arm and used his cell phone to call the mine foreman for help.



#### **Best Practices**

- Establish and discuss safe work procedures. Identify and control all hazards to finish the job safely.
- Train all persons to recognize and understand safe procedures before beginning work.
- Use manufacturer-provided operator manuals when giving task training and follow all recommended safety practices.
- Keep persons clear of moving machine parts at all times.
- Shut down equipment and block against motion before performing tasks where moving parts present a hazard.
- Do not work alone where hazards exist, even if communication devices are available.