

MNMM Fatal 2005-20

- Powered Haulage
- August 1, 2005 (Colorado)
- Sand and Gravel Operation
- Laborer
- 30 years old
- 8 weeks mining experience

Overview

- The victim was fatally injured when he contacted a return idler and was caught between the conveyor belt and the idler. He was using a shovel to remove clay that had build-up on the return idler while the conveyor belt was in motion.



Location of return idler.

Causal Factors

- Standards, policies and controls were inadequate. Procedures had not been established to ensure that the conveyor belt's power was off and the belt blocked against hazardous motion before maintenance work was performed. A shovel was used to clean a conveyor return idler while the conveyor belt was operating.
- Standards, policies and controls were inadequate. Management failed to implement hazard recognition that required miners to identify all potential hazards and eliminate them prior to performing any tasks near moving machinery components.

Causal Factors

- Standards, policies and controls were inadequate. Management failed to implement a procedure to recognize alcohol use on mine property.

Best Practices

- Stop, Look, Analyze, and Manage (SLAM) each task.
- Ensure that persons assigned to clean conveyor belts have received training regarding the hazards and understand safe work procedures.
- Lock out belt conveyor power switches and tag them before you work on a conveyor belt.

Best Practices

- Never clean pulleys or idlers manually while conveyor belts are in motion.
- Management should establish and implement procedures to recognize alcohol use on mine property.