

# METAL / NONMETAL Serious Injury Accident

Surface Lime Mine –A truck driver, with a bulk load of sulfuric acid, was off-loading 94% sulfuric acid. During the off-loading process, a pressurized 3-inch hose uncoupled, saturating the victim with sulfuric acid. The victim rinsed in an on-site chemical shower and was immediately transported to the hospital. The victim was then transported via life-flight to a burn center to undergo further evaluation and treatment.



## Best Practices

- In the case of a ruptured unloading hose, the air shutoff valve and liquid isolation valves should be far enough removed from the loading area so that the leak can be stopped quickly and safely.
- Make a contingency spill response plan and circulate the plan.
  - Plan routes for best access to mine locations.
  - Establish a chain of command and individual responsibilities.
  - Conduct spill response exercises: stage mock spills to practice techniques and reinforce training.
- The truck driver must make sure that all equipment on his/her truck, including unloading hoses, are in good order.
- Open the main valve on the trailer and any valves to the storage tank. This allows the acid to begin flowing as soon as enough pressure is available in the trailer.
- Ensure employees are trained in decontamination procedures.
  - Only remove contaminated clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) after entering the chemical shower to ensure contamination does not spread.
  - Ensure employees are not working alone during hazardous jobs.

