

# Stored Energy

Failure to recognize and control stored energy injures, disables and kills miners at stone, sand and gravel operations. Energy exists in various forms, including mechanical, electrical, pneumatic, gravitational, thermal, chemical, radiant, nuclear, sound or mechanical vibration. Stored energy is power that has not been used or dissipated and is ready to be released. Stored energy can take a variety of forms, from coiled springs or pneumatic reservoirs or cylinders to high pressure air, gas, fluid or hydraulic systems; from live electrical systems to unshielded nuclear device sources; from hot metals or gases to toxic or corrosive fluids; and from suspended loads to parts or equipment stored in elevated places or on end. An uncontrolled release of energy on the human body can be devastating and life changing... or ending.



## Best Practices

- Always follow the equipment manufacturer's recommended maintenance procedures while conducting repairs to machinery/equipment.
- Task train all persons to recognize potential hazardous conditions from stored energy and understand safe job procedures to eliminate all hazards before beginning work.
- Before beginning work on equipment/machinery, ensure power circuits are de-energized, locked out/tagged out and the equipment/machinery is blocked against hazardous motion.
- Require all persons to be safely positioned to prevent them from being exposed to any hazards. Monitor personnel to ensure safe work procedures.
- Always be aware of stored energy when raising or lowering equipment.
- Maintain sight or voice communications between the person handling high pressure equipment and the person operating the controls.