

MNMF Fatal 2004-21

- Electrical
- October 16, 2004 (Missouri)
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Laborer
- 37 years old
- 6 months experience

Overview

- A 4-man crew was positioning a conveyor utilizing a rubber-tired crane. The victim had both hands on the end of the conveyor. He was electrocuted when the crane hoist cable contacted a high-voltage power line.





Why Did Accident Occur?

- The accident occurred because safe operating procedures were not implemented before operating the crane near an energized high-voltage power line. The power line was not de-energized and no other precautionary measures were taken. A risk assessment to identify all possible hazards and establish safe procedures was not conducted by the crew prior to starting this task.



Causal Factors

- Management policies and controls were inadequate. Safe work procedures were not initiated to ensure that miners were protected while working near energized high-voltage power lines.

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- Policies and administrative controls were inadequate and failed to assign a ground person to signal the crane operator during all phases of the lift. The crane operator was unable to observe the distance between the hoist cable and the power line.

Best Practices

- Before the work begins, miners should jointly discuss the job tasks, identify all possible hazards, and ensure that steps are taken to safely perform the task (risk analysis).
- Ensure that high-voltage power lines are de-energized before operating equipment within 10 feet of them.
- Ensure that someone on the ground is designated to give signals to the crane operator making the lift.

Best Practices

- Train all miners to recognize hazards associated with crane lifting and ensure that tag lines are attached to guide the load.
- Ensure that miners are in a safe location prior to lifting the load.