MSHA has identified an equipment hazard with model ST2DS mobile diesel can-setters which can cause miners to be crushed in the articulation point. The operator's compartment for this and many other makes and models of articulated steering equipment is located and is accessed at the articulation point, which requires the operator to enter and exit the compartment in a hazardous area.

**Best Practices**

- Never work or travel in the articulation point or within the turning radius of equipment with the machine energized or the engine running.
- Prior to exiting the operator's compartment, shut off the engine, set the park brake, and ensure there is no stored hydraulic energy to cause machine articulation.
- Engage the steering frame lock, or use another effective means of preventing equipment motion if the lock cannot be used, when working in the articulation area of the equipment. Consider using an “Articulation Blocking Bar” to prevent motion. Maintain bucket or fork contact with the ground.
- Equip the operator's compartment with adequate restraint to ensure the operator remains in the compartment.
- Modify the machine to have interlocks that will disable the steering when a certain weight (e.g. 100 lbs.) is not on the operator’s seat in the cab or when the park brake is set.
- Keep all body parts within the interior of the operator’s compartment and only operate controls from within the cab.
- Maintain equipment controls to function as designed, e.g. levers return to center. Use either original equipment manufacturer (OEM) replacement parts or meet OEM specifications.
- Assure that equipment steering stop blocks are installed properly and well-maintained. Consult with the OEM for questions regarding the adequacy and size of the gap when fully articulated.
- Perform a thorough pre-operational examination on equipment to identify any defects that may affect the safe operation of equipment before it is placed into service.