

DISTRICT 2 COAL MINE NEAR MISS



A non-fatal injury occurred on January 26th, 2012 at the Oak Springs Slope project at Enlow Fork Mine (36-07416). A contractor working on the coal silos was attempting to remove a stainless steel sheet (10'X 4'6" X 3/8", 393 pounds) from a storage rack using a wire rope sling. The injured miner reached in between the sheet he was hooking the sling to when the remaining 13 plates on the rack shifted pinning him between them. When other workers were able to remove him from between the sheets he was not breathing and had to be resuscitated before being taken to the hospital. Injuries sustained included a broken clavicle.

Best Practices

- Stay away from pinch points and suspended loads which can lead to injury if the rigging device should fail.
- Inspect devices for signs of wear such as rust, metallic loss, fraying of rope, broken strands in cables, elongation of metal, etc.
- Obtain the weight of the object you are planning to move and do not exceed the rated capacity of your hoisting, towing, or rigging tools.
- Use proper racks to tack tell to minimize falling of materials