



CLOSE CALL

Surface Mine-Track Hoe Rollover/Fire



On March 10, 2008, a track hoe operator received minor injuries when the machine he was operating rolled off the ledge of the pad as he was loading trucks. As the operator exited the cab, the machine caught fire, and was subsequently extinguished by the mine crew and local fire department personnel. The operator was taken to a local hospital and treated for minor bumps/bruises and released that day. The operator was in the process of breaking off the edge of the pad with the teeth of the bucket and pulling up the loosened rock. While pulling up on the rock and swiveling the machine, the track hoe frame was raised and rotated over the edge of the pad. The release of the pressure and lowering of the machine caused it to roll off the pad.

Best Practices:

1. Always know where you and the machinery you are operating are located with respect to your surroundings.
2. Make a thorough visual examination of your work area, recognizing areas of tight clearance.
3. Design your mining method to eliminate the hazard posed by leading edges.

