

Metal/Nonmetal Northeast District

Maintenance Accident

On April 2, 2009 an experienced 42 year old truck driver was injured when a tire on his truck blew out. The driver and a mechanic were removing an outside wheel after a rock had become wedged between the inner and outer tires. When the mechanic removed the last wedge on the outer wheel, the inner tire blew sending the outer wheel flying. The mechanic was knocked about 10 feet through the air. He complained of pain and difficulty breathing and was transported to the hospital. The truck driver was also knocked down by the force of the exploding tire and suffered facial lacerations, bruises and a broken wrist.



Best Practices

- SLAM (Stop, Look Analyze, Manage) risks before performing any tasks.
- Remove valve cores to deflate tires before removing wheel lug wedges.
- Perform training to ensure all persons understand safe procedures before beginning work.