

## Metal/Nonmetal Northeast District

### Maintenance Accident

On November 18, 2009 two employees entered a salt bin to dislodge stuck material from the draw hole. Both employees were wearing safety harnesses and upon reaching the bottom of the bin, tied-off their lanyards to the access ladder. The bridged material gave way engulfing the miner up to his shoulders. Power to the bin was not de-energized and locked out. The discharge conveyor was running. There were no injuries.



### Best Practices:

- Equipment shall always be de-energized, locked out and blocked against motion while conducting maintenance or repair.
- Never walk on lodged material.
- Use the shortest possible lanyard when wearing fall protection.
- Ensure a second person tends a lifeline when entering bins, hoppers, or tanks.