



Safety Alert



Danger – Rotating Conveyor Rollers!

Three miners have been permanently disabled since the beginning of 2024

Serious and fatal injuries occur when miners clean or adjust conveyor rollers, pulleys and idlers while the belt is in motion. Injuries vary from broken bones to loss of fingers, hands, and arms. Some accidents have resulted in fatal injuries. Injuries result from unsafe actions like:

- Using aerial lifts to access elevated bend, snub, and take-up pulleys, or removing or reaching around guards to work on moving conveyor components.
- Using scrapers, shovels, pry bars, hammers and torches to remove ice, mud or buildup. The tools can be caught in pinch points between the conveyor belt and rollers and pull in the tools and miners' hands, arms, and bodies.



Victim caught between moving conveyor belt and bend pulley.

A miner suffered fatal injuries in 2018 when he was entangled in a conveyor's take-up assembly. He was working from an elevated aerial lift cleaning buildup from a bend pulley while it was operating.



This photo shows buildup on a bend pulley. In 2024 a miner lost a thumb when he removed a guard and began to clean a rotating bend pulley with a 15-inch-long pry bar.

Best Practices

- **Keep guards in place.** Do not defeat or circumvent any protective system.
- **Have an effective lock-out program.** Shut down, deenergize and lock out power switches and block conveyor parts against hazardous motion prior to performing belt roller or pulley cleaning, belt tracking or other maintenance.
- **Establish policies and procedures** to ensure proper and safe cleaning and maintenance of conveyor components.
- **Provide task and site-specific hazard training** that prohibits cleaning or working on or around moving conveyor components.
- **Follow safe cleaning and maintenance policies and procedures.** Supervisors, miners, and contractors are all responsible for working safely.

Report accidents and hazardous conditions: 1-800-746-1553

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