



# Confined Space Safety Alert



Between 2017 and 2020, three miners were fatally injured after entering confined spaces to clear material and obstructions. These confined spaces included a sand and gravel bin, a sand-filled hopper, and a cone crusher. All three miners were engulfed by falling material.



## Best Practices

- **Operators should identify and eliminate or control all hazards** before miners begin work and when clearing blocked material. Miners should be trained in these practices.
- **Lock-out, tag-out.** Never enter a confined space until the supply and discharge equipment is locked out.
- **Never lock-out using the start and stop controls.** These do not disconnect power conductors.
- **Assign a safety harness and lanyard to each miner** who may work at material supply and discharge areas or any areas where an engulfment hazard exists. Do not use lanyards that depend on free-fall speed to lock.
- **Place warning signs:**
  - **“Fall Protection Required Here”**
  - **“Confined Space – Engulfment Hazard” warning signs** at all access points to hoppers, bins, and chutes.

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

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Since 2015, there have been **11 similar accidents** and **73 citations/orders issued** under MSHA standards 30 CFR 56.16002 and 30 CFR 57.16002.

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