Fatality Alert

MINE FATALITY – On August 23, 2022, a contract mechanic received fatal injuries while performing maintenance on the bucket (dipper) of an electric rope shovel. A plastic block, used to prop open the dipper door, dislodged causing the dipper door to close and pin the victim against the back edge of the dipper.

Best Practices

- Make sure miners are positioned in a safe location and away from potential pinch point areas.
- Make sure miners securely block equipment against motion before beginning maintenance or repairs.
- Assure blocking material is substantial and installed correctly to support and stabilize the load.
- Make sure miners conduct repairs according to manufacturer’s recommendations.

This is the 19th fatality reported in 2022, and the eighth classified as “Machinery.”

The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data only. It does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.

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

msha.gov | askmsha@dol.gov | @MSHA_DOL