

Fatality Alert

MINE FATALITY – On May 21, 2026, a contractor died when an explosion occurred while he was heating the flights on an auger used to load ammonium nitrate.



Best Practices

- Practice safe-work procedures for hot-work on and around reactive material conveyance and storage systems. Never apply heat when reactive materials are present.
- Train miners and contractors on reactive material hazards and clean out procedures prior to performing repair work.
- Conduct job-specific hazard assessments and follow manufacturer recommendations for auger removal, repair, and welding activities.
- Ensure all stored energy sources, including mechanical, electrical and thermal are locked out, tagged out, and secured against motion before removing or repairing augers or drive components.

This is the 13th fatality reported in 2026, and the first classified as “Exploding Vessels Under Pressure.”

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

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

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