

MNMM Fatal 2008-12

- Electrical Accident
- August 6, 2008 (New Mexico)
- Potash Operation
- Shift Supervisor
- 38 years old
- 15 years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when he contacted conductors for a heat tape that had been installed in a shared conduit body with the conductors of a 480-volt circuit. Both the heat tape and circuit had been abandoned but neither of them had been removed. The 480-volt circuit was energized and short-circuited to the heat tape causing it to be energized to 277 volts to ground. The heat tape overheated and portions of the heat tape insulation melted away, leaving bare conductors. He contacted the bare heat tape conductors or adjacent energized parts while checking water valves in the area around the heat tape.



Victim's Location

Root Cause

Management policies and procedures failed to ensure that all potential electrical hazards were identified and corrected.

Best Practices

- Examine the work area for any potential hazards.
- Label all power switches to identify which units they control.
- Ground all metal enclosing electrical circuits.
- Conduct continuity and resistance tests of all grounding systems.
- Keep workplaces clean and orderly.
- Remove all abandoned electrical circuits.