MNM Fatal 2009-11

Powered Haulage Accident
June 11, 2009 (Missouri)
Underground Lead/Zinc Mine
Mechanic
57 years old
31 years of experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when he was struck by the ejector plate of a loader bucket. He looked in the left ejector plate relief port of the bucket while testing for a hydraulic leak inside the bucket.

The accident occurred because the procedure used to perform maintenance on the loader's hydraulic system did not effectively protect persons from the hazardous motion of the ejector plate.



Victim Leaned in this Window

Root Cause

Root Cause: The procedure used to test the loader for a hydraulic leak did not effectively protect persons from hazardous motion of the ejector plate.

Corrective Action: Management retrained all persons regarding safe work procedures for performing maintenance and testing on mobile equipment.

Best Practices

- Train persons to recognize work place hazards.
- Establish safe work procedures before a task is performed.
- Securely block equipment and components against hazardous motion at all times while performing maintenance work.
- If equipment and components are to be moved, always verify persons are aware and in a safe location prior to movement.
- Consult and follow the manufacturer's recommended safe work procedures for the maintenance task.