

MNMM Fatal 2010-07

- Machinery Accident
- May 24, 2010 (Oklahoma)
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Maintenance Foreman
- 61 years old
- 37 years of experience

Overview

The victim died while in a roller mill when it started. Electrical power to the roller mill had not been locked out.

The accident occurred because management failed to ensure that safe work procedures were followed while performing maintenance and mechanical work in the roller mill. The victim asked another person to lock out the roller mill for him then entered it without ensuring that the electrical circuits had been de-energized and locked out. The roller mill started while the victim was inside it.



Root Causes

Root Cause: Safe operating procedures were not followed during maintenance and mechanical work on the roller mill. Farris entered the roller mill without locking out the two electrical circuits that powered the moving parts inside it.

Corrective Action: Automatic startup alarms were installed on the roller mill. All persons working in the plant were retrained regarding lock-out procedures.

Root Cause: The defective breaker box was not removed from service before it became a hazard to persons. The breaker box handle was moved to the "OFF" position but did not disconnect the power to the mill rollers.

Corrective Action: The defective breaker box was repaired. All electrical boxes at the plant were examined to ensure they were in functional condition.

Best Practices

- Always follow established lock-out and tag-out procedures.
- Never rely on others to place your lock on electrical power switches.
- Always post warning notices at the power switches.
- Never enter machinery without ensuring the energy source is locked out.
- Always test to ensure power is off after locking out.
- Maintain power switch lock out mechanisms to function properly.