

MNMM Fatal 2010-18

- Powered Haulage Accident
- October 16, 2010 (Kansas)
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Haul Truck Driver
- 52 years old
- 5 years of experience

Overview

The victim died when he died while he was cleaning out hardened material on a belt conveyor tail pulley. He was positioned on top of the return side of the belt conveyor when the belt conveyor was energized, entangling him in the tail pulley.

The accident occurred because management failed to ensure that safe work procedures were followed while persons performed work on the belt conveyor tail pulley. The belt conveyor was not deenergized and blocked against motion before persons removed spillage. Additionally, the procedures for starting the belt conveyor did not ensure that persons were protected.



Root Causes

Root Cause: Management did not ensure that safe operating procedures were followed while persons removed spillage from the belt conveyor. The victim entered the belt conveyor without ensuring that it had been deenergized and blocked against motion.

Corrective Action: The procedures to deenergize and block equipment from hazardous motion have been revised. All miners have been trained regarding the new procedures.

Root Cause: Management did not ensure that safe operating procedures were followed prior to starting a belt conveyor.

Corrective Action: Safe operating procedures for starting belt conveyors have been established and all miners have been trained regarding the new procedures.

Best Practices

- Deenergize and block belt conveyors against motion before working near a drive, head, tail, and take-up pulleys.
- Lock-out/tag-out all energy sources to belt conveyors before working on them.
- Establish policies and procedures for conducting specific tasks on belt conveyors.
- Ensure that persons are task trained and understand the hazards associated with the work being performed.
- Maintain communications with all persons performing the task. Before re-starting belt conveyors, ensure that all persons are clear.