MNM Fatal 2010-22

- Powered Haulage Accident
- December 17, 2010 (Maryland)
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Truck Driver
- 35 years old
- 11 weeks of experience

Overview

The victim died while working inside a discharge chute when the belt conveyor he was standing on started. He was pulled out of the chute and conveyed under two crusher chutes located on the same belt conveyor. After the belt conveyor was shut down, he was found under a third crusher chute.

The accident occurred because management failed to ensure that the procedures to perform the task of plant maintenance and belt conveyor maintenance were followed. The belt conveyor was not de-energized, locked and tagged out, and blocked against motion prior to persons entering the area. Additionally, the belt conveyor was not provided with a functional alarm to warn persons of an intended start up.


Victim working
in this chute

Root Causes

Root Cause: Safe operating procedures were not followed during maintenance work on the plant. The victim entered the No.6 hopper box and worked on top of the 10(A) belt conveyor without ensuring that it had been de-energized and locked out. Management failed to ensure that the victim was no longer working on the 10 (A) belt conveyor prior to starting it.

Corrective Action: All persons working in the plant were retrained regarding lock-out procedures. Management will monitor lock out procedures to ensure that they are being followed.

Root Cause: Conveyor start up procedures were not adequate to ensure that all persons were clear of moving conveyors, The automatic start up alarm was not functional.

Corrective Action: Procedures have been established to ensure the safety of all persons during belt conveyor start up. The nonfunctional automatic start up alarm was repaired and is now functional. Regular examinations of the alarm will be conducted to ensure that it functions as required.

Best Practices

- Establish safe work procedures before conducting specific tasks on belt conveyors and ensure that the safe work procedures are followed.
- Train persons to recognize the hazards of working near belt conveyors.
- Deenergize and block belt conveyors against motion before working near a chute, drive, head, tail, and take-up pulleys.
- Lock-out/tag-out all energy sources to belt conveyors before working on them.
- Sound audible warnings or alarms prior to starting belt conveyors.
- Maintain communications with all persons performing the task. Before re-starting belt conveyors, ensure that all persons are clear.