MNM Fatal 2013-06

- Powered Haulage Accident
- April 27, 2013 (Texas)
- Gypsum Operation
- Mechanic
- 58 years old
- 2 years of experience

Overview

The victim was killed when he became entangled in the discharge belt conveyor of a mobile crusher. He was reaching into the belt conveyor, attempting to dislodge a large rock that was lodged between the belt conveyor and the frame of the crusher. The belt conveyor, which was stalled but had not been turned off or locked out, resumed movement after the victim dislodged the rock.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure that all persons followed established procedures, which required deenergizing the mobile crusher before performing maintenance work on it. Additionally, moving parts on the belt conveyor were not blocked against hazardous motion.

Root Cause

Root Cause: Management failed to ensure that persons followed previously established procedures to deenergize the crusher before performing maintenance work. Additionally, the discharge belt conveyor was not blocked against hazardous motion.

Corrective Action: Management retrained all miners regarding established procedures to deenergize the mobile crusher and block moving machine parts against hazardous motion moving before maintenance work begins.

Best Practices

- Establish policies and procedures for conducting specific tasks on belt conveyors.
- Before beginning any work, ensure that persons are task trained and understand the hazards associated with the work to be performed.
- Do not perform work on a belt conveyor until the power is off, locked, and tagged, and machinery components are blocked against motion.
- Provide emergency stop mechanisms at the control panel(s) and at ground level where maintenance or repair work is performed.
- Provide appropriate controls to protect any person working near a stalled conveyor from unexpected motion.
- Maintain communications with all persons performing the task. Before starting belt conveyors, ensure that all persons are clear.