

# MNM Fatal 2014-25

- Machinery
- November 10, 2014 (Virginia)
- Granite Mine
- Crusher Operator
- 45 years old
- 3 years of experience

# Overview

On November 10, 2014, Carl A. Hixon, Crusher Operator, age 45, was using a torch to cut a drill bit wedged in a jaw crusher, when the bit released and struck him. Hixon was hospitalized and died on January 17, 2015, as a result of his injuries.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to establish and implement policies and procedures to safely clear a jaw crusher. The jaw crusher was not blocked against hazardous motion to protect miners from flying/falling materials resulting from its movement.

Hixon did not receive task training on safe work procedures for clearing or dislodging material in a jaw crusher. Specifically, he was not trained on the potential hazards resulting from a sudden release of stored energy from a jammed crusher.



# Root Causes

- **Root Cause:** Management failed to establish policies or procedures to protect miners from hazardous motion of the jaw crusher components or objects stuck in the jaw crusher.
- **Corrective Action:** Management established policies and procedures to ensure that miners would not enter the jaw crusher to free any jammed material or objects and trained miners on these procedures. The onsite Kobelco SK400 excavator, equipped with a 10,000 pound hammer, will be used to dislodge any items that become wedged through the crusher plates.
- **Root Cause:** Management failed to task train miners on safe procedures for dislodging objects stuck in the jaw crusher, and hazards resulting from a sudden release of stored energy from a jammed crusher.
- **Corrective Action:** Management has revised their Part 46 training plan to include task training for all miners on safe procedures for dislodging objects stuck in the jaw crusher, including the hazards resulting from a sudden release of stored energy from a jammed crusher. All miners were trained according to the revised plan.

# Best Practices

- Task train miners to identify and control all hazards associated with their work.
- Establish and discuss policies and procedures for safely clearing a jaw crusher.
- Implement measures to ensure miners are positioned safely and protected from hazards while performing a task.
- Consider a mechanical method for clearing material to minimize exposure.
- Before working on or near equipment, deenergize the power and lock out/tag out.
- Securely block equipment against hazardous motion to ensure energy cannot be released.
- Provide a safe means of access for miners required to maintain a jaw crusher.
- Provide guards, shields, or other devices to protect miners from flying or falling materials at screens, crushers, or conveyors.
- Install equipment to detect and prevent metal from entering a crusher.