

MNMF Fatal 2015-01

- Machinery
- January 8, 2015 (California)
- Sand and Gravel
- Contract Sales Manager
- 63 years old
- 11 years of experience

Overview

On January 8, 2015, Alan Tindall, Contract Sales Manager, age 63, was killed at this mine while working with mine personnel to install new screen panels in a tower screen. A loosened feeder box pivoted down, pinning Tindall between the box and the splash curtain support bracket on the screen.

On January 7, 2015, the day before the accident, mine personnel cut four of the six retaining nuts and bolts holding the feeder box in place with a torch and the two remaining bolts were loosened to allow the old screens to slide out. This left the feeder box unsecured while the new screen panels were installed.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to establish policies and procedures for persons to safely remove the old screens and install new screens on the screen tower. The feeder box was not secured in place or blocked against hazardous motion because four of the six retaining nuts and bolts were cut off. After the nuts and bolts were cut off, the feeder box was never resecured and the four nuts and bolts were not replaced. The feeder box hung by the loosened bottom two nuts and bolts.

Management also failed to ensure that an examination was conducted of the repairs on the screen. The repairs had been in progress for two days. The unsecured feeder box should have been recognized as a hazard by a work place examiner looking for hazardous conditions. The cut off nuts and bolts allowed the feeder box to move unexpectedly and pin the victim.



Root Causes

The investigators conducted a root cause analysis and identified the following root cause:

Root Cause: Management failed to establish policies and procedures for persons to safely replace the old screens and install new screens on Tower B. The feeder box was not secured in place nor blocked against hazardous motion after four of the six retaining nuts and bolts were torched off. The feeder box was never secured and the four bolts and nuts were not replaced to keep it secured. The feeder box hung by the remaining bottom two nuts and bolts, which were loosened.

Corrective Action: Management has developed a new standard operating procedure for retrofitting screen decks. The miners were trained in these new procedures.

Best Practices

- Establish and discuss safe work procedures. Identify and control all hazards associated with the work to be performed along with the methods to properly protect persons.
- Always follow the equipment manufacturer's recommended maintenance procedures when conducting repairs to machinery.
- Task train all persons to recognize all potential hazardous conditions and understand safe job procedures to eliminate all hazards before beginning work.
- Securely block equipment and components against hazardous motion at all times while performing work.
- Ensure that blocking material is competent, substantial, and adequate to support the load.
- Require all persons to be positioned to prevent them from being exposed to any hazards. Do not work in pinch points where inadvertent movement could cause injury.
- Monitor all persons to ensure safe work procedures, including safe work positioning, are followed.