

MSHA HAZARD ALERT

THINK QUICKSAND



A front end loader operator was loading sand into the feed hopper. He dismounted from the cab to retrieve two 55-gallon drum lids from the hopper, when he fell into the hopper and became engulfed by the sand.

Mine operators should equip feed hoppers with mechanical devices, grates/grizzlies or other effective means of handling material so that persons are not required to work where they are exposed to entrapment by sliding material. This short video, [Quicksand](#), illustrates engulfment hazards.

MSHA standards 30 CFR §§56/57.16002(b) address bins, hoppers, silos, tanks and surge piles. They state, **“Where persons are required to move around or over any facility listed in this standard, suitable walkways or passageways shall be provided.”** 30 CFR [§§ 56/57.16002\(c\)](#) require a safety belt or harness equipped with a lifeline suitably fastened.

Mine operators must always comply with the following additional standards:

- 30 CFR [§§56/57.9301](#) - Dump site restraints;
- 30 CFR [§§56/57.9304](#) - Unstable ground;
- 30 CFR [§§56/57.11001](#) - Safe access; and
- 30 CFR [§§56/57.15005](#) - Safety belts and lines.

BEST PRACTICES

- Signs that warn, “CONFINED SPACE, ENGULFMENT HAZARD”, should be posted at all access points to hoppers, bins, silos, tanks and surge piles.
- Mobile or stationary platforms from which miners may work should be made available at locations where there is risk of being engulfed by sliding material.
- Assign a safety harness and lanyard to each individual miner who may work at an elevated height, or who may work on or near locations where an engulfment hazard exists.
- Construct stable, durable and secure anchor points to which miners can attach a fall protection lanyard at all locations where an engulfment hazard exists, and inspect these anchor points frequently. Post signage, “FALL PROTECTION IS REQUIRED HERE”.

Have a Safe 2017

