

Mine Safety Incidents

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) publishes reports of serious accidents that occur at jobsites in the hopes that others may learn from the incidents. These reports contain best practices for jobsites. Following these practices may have helped prevent the accidents that occurred.

Hazardous Fumes

On June 28, 2017, a miner was overcome by vapors following a hazardous waste spill from a tanker trailer. The hazardous material spilled from the top of the tanker around a damaged agitator seal. The miner stopped the spill at the tanker bay control station and attempted to clean up the spill by washing it into a sump. He noticed a very strong chemical odor and his vision became blurry. The miner attempted to leave the area and ran a short distance before losing consciousness.

Best Practices

- Process equipment should be regularly inspected for proper operation. Damaged equipment should be removed from service. Displays, controls, and emergency stops should be readily accessible and installed away from potential hazard zones.
- Fixed gas detectors with alarms should be installed in areas where hazardous gases or vapors can accumulate. Miners handling hazardous chemicals should be equipped with personal gas detectors. Calibrate and maintain gas detection equipment per manufacturer recommendations.
- Avoid working in areas where hazardous concentrations of gases and vapors can accumulate. Minimize or eliminate hazards through engineering and administrative controls. Ventilation systems should be properly designed, installed, and maintained to remove hazardous contaminants from the work area.

- Evaluate the hazards associated with work processes and develop procedures and training to protect miners from those hazards. Provide warning signs that display the nature of the hazard(s) and the required personal protective equipment.
- Train miners on emergency response procedures.

Flying Debris

On November 3, 2017, a miner was injured while removing the teeth from an excavator bucket with a sledge hammer. As the miner was striking one of the teeth, a small piece of metal sheared off the sledge hammer and struck the miner in the leg.

Best Practices

- Examine your work place for all possible hazards and correct them before you perform work.
- Inspect hand tools before and after use.
- Remove defective tools from service.
- Follow the manufacturers' recommended safe work procedures for the maintenance task and monitor work to ensure procedures are followed.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) while performing work.

What This Means for Counties

CTSI offers a range of certified MSHA safety classes to help you maintain a safe jobsite and workforce. Please contact CTSI Loss Prevention at 303 861 0507 to schedule a class. [ctsi](http://www.ctsi.org)