
MSHA Close Accident Alert

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) publishes incident reports from mine sites throughout the United States. These reports are aimed at increasing awareness of mine-site hazards as well as outlining best safety practices. Following are two recent incidents showcasing common potential hazards mine sites.

Worksite Fall

On June 15, 2018, a miner fell from a man basket while exiting an electric shovel. The weldment used to secure the man basket to the shovel failed causing the miner to fall approximately 15 feet to the ground below. The miner was life-flighted to a local hospital.

Best Practices

- Self-propelled mobile equipment should be thoroughly inspected before being placed in operation.
- Defects should be reported to and recorded by the mine operator. Defects affecting safety should be corrected in a timely manner.
- All persons should be properly trained in the safe operating procedures of equipment prior to operation.
- Routinely examine metal structures for indications of weakened structural components (corrosion, fatigue cracks, bent/buckling beams, braces or columns, damaged/loose/missing connectors, broken welds, etc.).
- Be alert that small cracks in equipment can quickly grow into a complete fracture. Cracked mechanical components should be taken out of service immediately.
- Consult with the manufacturer to determine the service/fatigue life of mechanical systems or parts.

Electrical Burns

On May 18, 2018, a contractor sustained serious burns when he was working in a electrical panel and touched an electrified feed line with a screwdriver.

Best Practices

- Develop, communicate, and follow a written plan before performing electrical work to ensure that safety is maximized for all miners involved in the task.
- Miners performing electrical work should have the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to perform the task.
- Ensure all electrical circuits and circuit breakers are identified properly before troubleshooting or performing electrical work.
- Prior to conducting any electrical work, identify hazards, establish safe limits of approach.
- Wear properly rated and well maintained PPE (including coveralls, jackets, eye protection, insulated gloves and tools).
- Before working on equipment, always de-energize, lock and tag out the circuit with your lock and tag.

What This Means for Counties

Maintaining a safe worksite is the responsibility of all employees. Proper training and safety precautions are necessary to prevent the loss of time, equipment, and lives. 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)