

Close Call Accident Alerts

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 on surface mine sites such as gravel pits.

Dimension Stone

On Monday, October 23, 2017, the boom of a Pellegrini stiff leg derrick failed while lifting a muck bucket. The crane operator and the foreman were in the operator's station, or "crow's nest," on the edge of the high-wall. As the boom started to fail, they were able to run to safety before the operator's station was crushed. The derrick collapsed into the quarry, but no injuries occurred.

Best Practices

- Do not overload the crane. Know the load chart and weight of the object to be lifted in order to avoid tipping or causing structural damage to the crane.
- Periodically inspect the crane in accordance with the procedures in the operator's manual.
- Follow the manufacturer's guidelines when making repairs or conducting other maintenance on the derrick.
- Examine and test all safety devices on a regular basis and ensure that they are operating properly.
- When using cable clips to secure a wire rope, always apply the proper torque, use the amount required based on the rope diameter, and follow the rigger's rule of "never saddle a dead horse" when positioning the clip.
- Never side load the boom by rapidly swinging the load or picking up a load when it is not directly under the boom tip. Side loading the boom could cause a collapse.

Stacking Conveyor

On December 15, 2017, a miner unbolted and lowered a point of contact guard exposing the moving

conveyor rollers on one side of a stacking conveyor. While standing on the blade of a bulldozer, the victim attempted to dislodge ice buildup and was pulled into the conveyor and sustained severe injuries. The conveyor had not been de-energized, locked out, or blocked against motion.

Best Practices

- Do not perform work on a belt conveyor until the power is off, locked, and tagged, and machinery components are blocked against motion.
- Before beginning any work, ensure that persons assigned to work on belt conveyors are task trained and understand the hazards associated with the work to be performed.
- Never clean pulleys or idlers manually while belt conveyors are operating.
- Identify hazards around belt conveyor systems.
- Design and securely install guarding to ensure miners do not contact moving machine parts.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing when working near moving machine parts.
- Provide emergency stop mechanisms at the control panel(s) and at ground level where maintenance or repair work is performed.

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. A list of available classes can be found at: <http://www.ctsi.org/lpclasses/ClassList.pdf>. Please contact CTSI Loss Prevention at 303-861-0507 to schedule a class. 