



MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Safety Idea

**SAFETY
IS A
VALUE!**

Lubrication Systems

Category : Maintenance

Mine Type: All Mines

Greasing elevated conveyors, the underside of large mobile vehicles and other equipment can be made SAFER and EASIER for maintenance workers. Here are some options you may want to consider for your operation:

- (1) An automated lubrication system, sometimes called an octopus. This consists of a grease pump and grease distribution lines. When the conveyor (or other piece of equipment) is running, the lubrication system dispenses small amounts of lubricant at frequent intervals. Existing equipment can be retrofitted with an automated lubrication system.
- (2) A centralized lubrication system. This consists of a conventional lever gun that supplies lubricant to a single grease fitting, that then feeds a number of grease distribution lines to many lube points.
- (3) A single-point automatic lubricator which automatically lubricates a single point for weeks or months at a time, depending on the adjustable grease or oil delivery rate. When the grease or oil is depleted the single point lubricator is replaced.
- (4) Provide a catwalk or other means of access to all lubrication points.

Maintenance work, like lubricating equipment, can be made safer while also increasing productivity. No more removing and reinstalling guards or shutting down equipment in order to lubricate it.

Information about lubrication systems may be obtained by calling the Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers at (847) 825-5536 ext 210 (Robert Gresham), or on the web at <http://www.stle.org>, or by contacting a knowledgeable lubricant supplier.

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Remember – Safety is a Value that you can LIVE with!