

Don't Get Carried Away Working Around Conveyor Belts



A miner with 32 years experience was fatally injured at a sand and gravel operation in Alaska. The victim went behind a conveyor belt take-up pulley guard and used a wood handled shovel to clean under the pulley. He was entangled in the pulley and fatally injured. Additionally, several miners have recently been seriously injured performing cleanup or maintenance duties around conveyor belts. These accidents could have been prevented if mine operators had established safe work procedures or victims had followed established procedures when working around conveyor belts.

MSHA personnel will focus on work procedures around conveyor belts during future inspections to educate miners and mine operators regarding these hazards.

Fundamental Conveyor Belt Safety Procedures

- Do not service or work on conveyor belts until the motor disconnect is Locked and Tagged Out!
- Keep clothing, fingers, hair, other parts of the body, and jewelry away from moving conveyor belts!
- Do not remove or alter conveyor belt guards!
- Know the location and function of all stop and start controls!
- Keep all stop and start control devices for conveyor belts free from obstructions!
- Keep all personnel clear of conveyor belts before they are started!
- Keep areas around conveyor belts clear of obstructions!