

No job is more important.



Safety Alert

N°1 1999

Bucket Elevators



A maintenance fitter was working in a bucket elevator pit servicing the elevator. To move the bucket elevator from one position to the next, the fitter used the jog button and then activated the emergency stop button to isolate power to the elevator while he changed buckets.

The process used to remove and/or replace the buckets meant that the fitter had to reach behind the bucket elevator belt with his left arm to hold a bucket locating bolt and washer in place while loosening/tightening the nut with a ratchet and socket spanner in his right hand.

The accident occurred when the fitter pulled the belt to get a better position and the belt, with buckets attached, rolled forward trapping his arm between the belt and the slatted tail drum.

The fitter's arm was severely crushed and lacerated. He could not roll the belt backwards to free his arm because of an anti-roll back device and while attempting to pull his arm free amputated it above the elbow.

Contributing Factors

- An investigation into this accident revealed that:
- The bucket elevator was not fitted with an anti-runaway device.



Recommendations

- All bucket elevators must be fitted with anti-roll back and anti-runaway devices.
- They must also be 'locked out' electrically while being worked on.

If you would like further information contact Workplace Standards Tasmania on:
Telephone: **1300 366 322** (inside Tasmania) or (03) 6233 7657 (outside Tasmania),

Fax: (03) 6233 8338, Email: info@wsa.tas.gov.au, or Internet: www.wsa.tas.gov.au

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