

No job is more important.



Safety Alert

N°9 1997

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT

CRUSHER OPERATOR'S ARM CAUGHT IN CONVEYOR**INCIDENT**

A crusher operator was seriously injured when his arm became trapped around the tail drum of a conveyor. The operator was trying to remove a build up of dirt on the drum with a short piece of steel. He thought it would be too difficult to stop the drum with the lump exposed and so did not stop the conveyor. He was also in a hurry to complete the cleaning process before the next delivery.

To reach the tail drum nip point, it was necessary for the operator to crawl through a small opening that accesses the underside of the crusher, and crawl around the side of the drum. It was in this confined space that his arm became trapped, resulting in serious muscular damage.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- The operator's failure to isolate the conveyor
- The condition of the plant
- The design/layout of the plant
- The method of operation

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Workplace Standards Authority recommends that:

- all machinery be isolated prior to any maintenance work being performed.
- belt scrapers be fitted to stop material build up on drums.
- plant be designed for easy access to high maintenance areas, including the raising of the tail drum.
- sufficient time be allowed for maintenance requirements.
- a hazard analysis and risk assessment be carried out on all crushing plants.
- procedures for the operation of crushing plants be developed, documented and implemented.

It is a requirement that conveyors comply with AS 1755 – 1986, and that fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders comply with AS 1657 – 1992.

.....
 Steve Hyam, Chief Inspector
 Workplace Standards Authority
 5 December 1997