Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy





IVE

OMORROW

Serious Personal Injuries

On Thursday November 4th, 2016 at approximately 11:20 PM an accident occurred resulting in serious personal injury of two employees in a Wise County mine. The crew was attempting to pull a broken conveyor belt back together when a sheave system broke free from a chain that was hooked to the edge of a roof bolt plate. One employee received a broken nose and three cracked vertebra in his neck and the other suffered four broken ribs and a collapsed lung. Both injured employees were transported to local hospitals for treatment.









SAFETY KEYPOINTS:

- Before performing any work, miners should evaluate the area and the work they are performing to identify any hazards associated with the task.
- When using a pulley system, the system should be anchored adequately.
- Miners should position themselves away from areas where forces from released energy will travel.
- Additional safety talks should be held with all employees assigned to assist with this type of work and discuss any hazards.
- Most accidents causing personal injury can be traced to unsafe work practices by either operating or maintenance personnel. Many accidents occur because the personnel concerned do not realize the danger of improper practices.
- Experience maintenance personnel should be trained to recognize and correct unsafe practices as well as any dangerous condition in the equipment itself.

