

SAFETY ALERT: MINER SERIOUSLY INJURED **PERFORMING MAINTENANCE ON A SCREEN**

On 4/18/23, a maintenance employee with 36 weeks of mining experience was seriously injured while performing maintenance on a screen drive. The employee reached behind the guard to check the tension on the drive belt after the unit had been turned off but before it came to a complete stop and his hand became pinched between the drive belt and the pulley. The employee's injuries included a crushed finger and an open fractured finger on his left hand. The employee was in the hospital for 2 nights for surgery and recovery.

TO AVOID A SIMILAR ACCIDENT, MINERAL MINING PROGRAM RECOMMENDS:

- Maintenance should not be performed until machinery is de-energized, locked out, and blocked against hazardous motion. (4 VAC 25-40-350)
- Mine employees should be adequately task trained prior to performing any tasks on a mine site and training should include recognition of hazards associated with all tasks.
- Re-evaluate or establish safe work procedures for each task and review them with the miners assigned to those tasks.
- Remind miners of their responsibility to inspect their work areas prior to starting work and frequently thereafter. Unsafe conditions are to be corrected or reported to the certified mine foreman.
- Miners must be alert and remain clear of moving machinery or equipment and avoid potential pinch points that may be present.
- Review this accident and all contributing factors with all mine and contractor personnel. All employees should be aware of the position of their hands while performing repairs or maintenance on equipment. Hands should never be placed in a position where they could be crushed or pinched by the unexpected movement of tools or equipment.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding procedures and tools to be used during equipment maintenance.



Screen with inset showing where accident occurred



Arrow points to where miner inserted his hand