



SAFETY ALERT: MINER SERIOUSLY INJURED **DISASSEMBLING A MODULAR TRENCH BOX**

On 7/31/23, a 63-year-old miner with 26 years of experience was seriously injured while disassembling a modular trench box. During the disassembly process, one of the wall panels fell unexpectedly causing the miner to move quickly to avoid it. This quick movement resulted in a torn tendon in the miner's left knee that required surgery to repair.

TO AVOID A SIMILAR ACCIDENT, VIRGINIA ENERGY RECOMMENDS:

- Miners should be tasked trained on the maintenance and use of all equipment prior to its use.
- Task training should review manufacturer's safe operations instructions including assembly and disassembly where applicable.
- Care should be taken that all parts remain stable or blocked against hazardous motion while disassembling equipment.
- Maintain enough fasteners in place to ensure stability until controlled movement can be ensured.
- Lifting aids are recommended when necessary to ensure the stability of partially disassembled equipment.



Accident scene showing modular trench box being disassembled.