



ACCIDENTS

DISTRICT 3 MINES

INVOLVING CHAINS AND WIRE ROPES



A review of the five year accident history of District 3 mines indicates there have been over 50 lost time accidents involving miners using chains and 3 lost time accidents involving miners using wire ropes. The accidents occurred while the miners were performing a variety of tasks such as lifting, striking, hoisting and towing. The review of these accidents revealed the severity of several of the accidents could have been much greater, and in some cases even fatal.

Below is a breakdown of the types of accidents:

- The chain or termination pulled through the material that was being moved, causing the object being pulled or the chain/wire rope to strike a bystander;
- The chain or wire rope failed due to improper sizing;
- Struck by slack when tension was applied;
- The termination failed;
- Fingers or other part of body pinched while the employee was installing or removing chain wire rope;
- Chain or wire rope picked up material in roadway and caused it to strike a bystander;
- The chain, winch or wire rope slipped when tension was applied causing in to strike a bystander;
- Object being pulled suddenly broke loose and hit bystander;
- Struck by moving equipment when trying to rig material to be moved;
- Struck by fragment when pounding on chain;
- Other

A Root Cause Analysis of the various accident types identified simple best practices that must be followed to prevent recurrences.

They are:

- Maintain a safe distance from the object being moved (1.5 times the length of the chain or rope).
- Assure the chain or wire rope is properly sized for the load being moved.
- Do not place any part of your body between the chain or wire rope and the object you are attempting to secure.
- Stay Out of Harm's Way!