

Case 313. 28-year-old operator of a *Trommel* screening machine died when he became entangled as he accessed an unguarded area to clean debris and/or adjust a conveyor belt.

A 28-year-old male operator of a *Trommel* screening machine died when he became entangled as he accessed an unguarded area to clean debris and/or adjust a conveyor belt. The mobile trailer-mounted *Trommel* screening machine was used to separate incoming dyed wood chips and to screen soils into different sized materials. Material to be screened was loaded into a hopper by a front end loader. The material was separated by size or removed from one another, such as rocks from dirt, by a screening drum. The screened material then fell onto designated conveyor belts that placed the screened material into separate piles. The decedent was working on the conveyor located on the north side of the machine. He did not turn off the machine prior to beginning work. The opening to permit access to the conveyor and its supporting equipment was approximately 3 feet tall by 4.5 feet long and approximately 4 feet high. It appears the decedent was attempting to make an adjustment to the conveyor to allow for less debris buildup at the idler roller when the incident occurred. The decedent's arm was became caught in between the belt and the idler roller and was pulled into the machine frame causing his death. On the conveyor, the pillow block bearing was loose on one side and a wrench was found on the ground near the other pillow block. When he did not answer his cell phone, his coworker went looking for him. When his coworkers found him, the unit was running. Coworkers had to turn off the motor prior to cutting his clothing and releasing him from the belt idler conveyor pulley.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation:

SERIOUS: CONVEYORS, PART 14

- RULE 1442(2):

A nip point at a pulley was not guarded by an enclosure or barrier constructed to prevent access by an employee's body members or loose clothing:

- a. No guard over the idler roller of the belt of conveyor unit, *Trommell* Screen 616 – Back Side of Lot.
- b. No guard over the idler roller of the belt of conveyor unit.

- RULE 1411(2):

An inspection program was not established to maintain conveyor components in a condition which did not constitute a hazard to the employee:

Inadequate inspection program, in that it does not address safe guarding nip points from the belt and idler roller.

- RULE 1411(1)

An employer shall provide training to an employee working on or by a conveyor regarding the hazards and safeguards of such work.

Inadequate training, in that not trained to lock out the conveyor when cleaning and making adjustments for the belt.

- RULE 1431(1):

An employer shall establish and maintain a lockout procedure which shall safeguard an employee.

No lock out procedure was developed and utilized when clearing the belt and conducting repair and lubrication operations.