



## SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT #82

### Worker Entangled in Conveyor Tail Drum

#### Mine Type

All Mine Types

#### Incident

On Tuesday 19 May 2020, a worker was seriously injured at a quarry when his left arm became entangled in the rotating tail drum of a conveyor belt. Prior to the accident, the conveyor had been stopped to enable clearing of rock spillage from the tail drum area. The injured worker was attempting to clear rock from the nip point where the return side of the belt meets the tail drum, when the conveyor was briefly energised (jogged) by another worker from the plant switchboard located some distance away. The conveyor belt was cut in order to free the injured worker.



## Equipment

Conveyor

## Hazard

Mechanical / Entanglement in rotating plant

## Comments

The incident is under investigation. Preliminary findings indicate that the plant was not isolated and that the conveyor was inadequately guarded.

In 2018, a worker was fatally injured while performing a similar task after becoming entangled in the tail drum of a conveyor after removing guarding.

In 2012, a worker was fatally injured when entangled in a conveyor take up pulley as the guarding was ineffective.

Safety alerts 111, 291 and 360 have been published and relate to similar incidents.

## Recommendations

- Plant should be maintained and operated in a way that reduces or eliminates spillage. Guards must be securely fitted and require the plant to be isolated and locked out prior to being removed to clear unintended spillage.
- If personnel are to carry out work on plant it must be isolated and locked out.
- Implement a monitoring program to ensure that guarding on conveyors remains effective.