



Fatality involving a quarry plant operator

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What happened?

On Thursday 5 November 2018, a worker was fatally injured at a quarry when he became entangled in the rotating tail drum of a conveyor belt. A co-worker activated the emergency stop device fitted to the conveyor.

How did it happen?

This tragic incident is under investigation. Preliminary findings indicate that the tail drum guard had been removed to allow rock to be cleared and the conveyor was operating with the guard removed when the incident occurred.

Recommendations

- **Always** stop and isolate a conveyor before undertaking work on the conveyor.
- **Never** operate a conveyor without the necessary guarding in place.
- **Always** operate and maintain the conveyor in a way that eliminates or reduces the occurrence of spillage, requiring the need to remove guarding to clear it.
- **Ensure** that personnel operating or maintaining conveyors understand the hazards and risks and the critical controls, such as separation through fixed guarding and isolation lock-out, necessary to prevent serious injury or death.
- **Conduct** regular inspections and monitoring to ensure that critical controls are in place and are effective.



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Issued by the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy



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