

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES' HAZARD ALERT

Portable Jaw Crushers

In June 2018, a mine worker in British Columbia was fatally injured after being hit from overhead falling rock, suspected to have been ejected from a portable jaw crusher unit at a gravel pit.

BACKGROUND

Portable jaw crusher units are used at various small to medium mine and quarrying operations throughout the province.

Many of these units have a safety gate installed above the jaw, designed by the manufacturer to deflect rocks into the mouth of the jaw as they are being crushed.



The safety gate is installed on a hinge to allow an open position during maintenance and a closed position over the jaw during operation.



Gate in open/servicing position



Gate in closed/operating position

When the safety gate is not securely attached with bolts in its operating position, it can be dislodged by rocks forcefully rejected by the jaw.

RECOMMENDED HAZARD CONTROLS

- Ensure engineered safety mechanisms as installed by the manufacturer are in place, are being maintained and are used as designed.
- Identify and guard areas that could expose workers to falling hazards and provide appropriate signage to assist in hazardous area identification.
- Provide safe working procedures and ensure workers are trained.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

The Chief Inspector reminds mine managers of their responsibility to comply with the regulatory requirements to protect workers from inadvertent falling rocks from all crushing and conveyancing systems. In summary, these include but are not limited to:

Working Conditions - HSRC Part 1.9.1

- The manager shall take all reasonable and practicable measures to ensure that the workplace is free of conditions which could adversely affect the safety of the workers, and where practicable, institute controls at the source.

Conveyor Belts and Safe Work Procedures - HSRC Part 4.4.16(11)

- The manager shall develop safe work procedures for any work near moving conveyors.

Training - HSRC Part 1.11.1 & 1.11.2

- The manager shall ensure that workers are adequately trained to do their job or are working under the guidance of someone who has competency both in the job and in giving instruction, and ensure that all employees receive thorough orientation and basic instruction in safe work practices.
- The manager shall maintain a record of all training workers and supervisors have received, and make this record available to an inspector upon request.

Consult the Health Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC for regulatory requirements.