

SERIOUS INJURY ACCIDENT: May 2008 Miner Struck By Service Truck

An assistant mechanic employed by a mine company was seriously injured when he was struck by a contractor's service truck as it was backing up. The injured worker and the contractor mechanic were preparing to remove the stick section, and its associated hydraulics, from a Caterpillar 345B excavator for repairs. After observing the mine mechanic collecting tools from his own truck, the contractor began backing his service truck into position next to the excavator bucket. Thinking the contractor was going to stop approximately ten feet from the bucket, the miner entered the work area and began loosening the keeper bolts on the hydraulic lines going to the bucket. The rear bumper of the service truck struck the miner pinching his left pelvic area between the bumper and the excavator bucket. The victim was transported to a hospital where he was treated for a complete fracture to his left pelvic bone.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This accident occurred due to a lack of communication between the victim and the contractor mechanic. The victim disregarded the service truck's audible back-up alarm and placed himself in an unsafe position. To avoid the occurrence of a similar accident, DMM recommends the following:

- Workers must be aware of the dangers in working around mobile equipment and the importance of staying alert to what is going on around them.
- Workers must establish eye contact with operators prior to moving around mobile equipment.
- Equipment operators must be certain that all persons are in the clear before starting or moving mobile equipment as required by DMM regulation.
- Remind all workers of their responsibility to examine their work areas for unsafe conditions prior to starting work and frequently thereafter.



Accident scene



Pinch point between the bumper and bucket.

❖ **Never Forget, working around mobile equipment can be dangerous!!**