

Accident Investigation: Electrical Accident May 22, 2001

A mine worker operating a front-end loader struck and cut buried high voltage (34,000 volts) power lines feeding a totally enclosed transformer located on a concrete pad. The worker was attempting to remove accumulated sand around the barricaded transformer prior to thunderstorms forecast for the region. The bucket of the front-end loader struck and cut the buried wires which then tripped the breakers on a nearby power line pole. Luckily, the worker was not injured.



RECOMMENDATION: Always contact "Miss Utility" to identify and mark location of buried utility lines prior to digging by hand or use of mobile equipment; failure to locate and mark buried lines could result in personal injury, penalties, and disruption of plant production/operation.