

FATAL ACCIDENT ALERT

DECEMBER 22, 2025 – FLASH FIRE CAUSED BY CUTTING TORCH

On December 22, 2025, a maintenance contractor employee was fatally injured at a Virginia mineral mine while performing maintenance on a cone crusher. The contractor was using a torch to remove adjustment shims when a nearby hydraulic line ruptured resulting in a flash fire. The contractor received burns to his face and later experienced respiratory difficulties. Immediately following the accident, he was transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Suggested Best Practices:

- Always follow manufacturer's recommended procedures when performing maintenance on machinery.
- Carefully inspect areas where hot work is to be performed for fire and explosion hazards and mitigate these hazards prior to commencing work.
- Conduct a job safety analysis to identify safety concerns when conducting infrequently performed maintenance tasks.
- Always wear appropriate personal protection equipment when utilizing a cutting torch.

