

DMM Safety Alert

Fall From Conveyor Transfer Chute

On February 23, 2021, a miner with approximately 22 years of mining experience was seriously injured when he fell approximately 15 feet from an elevated conveyor transfer chute. The miner and a co-worker were trying to clear the chute of bridged material. As the miner opened an access door on the transfer chute, material inside the chute abruptly forced the door open, causing the miner to fall to the ground. EMS was called and the injured miner was transported to a local hospital, where he was treated for several broken ribs, a punctured lung, several broken vertebrae, and a brain bleed.

The Virginia Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) recommends the following to help prevent a similar type of accident from occurring:

- Prior to starting work, always stop to identify all potential safety and health hazards associated with a task, and determine the appropriate work procedures and personal equipment needed to do the job safely.
- **4 VAC 25-40-1810**, requires that safe access be provided to all work areas.
- Remember, fall protection is to be used where there is a danger of falling. **4 VAC 25-40-1740** requires a safety harness with a line be worn when persons work where there is a danger of falling.
- Written procedures are recommended for jobs such as this. Training in these procedures must be provided to all persons involved in a specific job.

