

DMM Safety Alert: Crane Rigger Injured

In January 2010, a contractor crane service employee was seriously injured during the breakdown of a crane. The crane had completed a job that involved setting a sand dredge in a river. The injured miner was removing the pad from one of the crane's outriggers when his hand was caught in a pinch point between a moving section and a stationary section of the telescoping outrigger. The injured miner was hospitalized for treatment of a broken thumb and surgery to repair tissue and nerve damage.

To prevent similar accidents in the future, the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining recommends the following:

- Job procedures should be continually reviewed in order to eliminate hazardous conditions or actions.
- Miners must be alert and remain clear of moving machinery or equipment.
- Machinery and equipment should not be started or moved prior to ensuring that affected persons are in the clear.
- Signs (decals, etc.) should be in place to warn miners of possible pinch points or other hazards that might not be obvious.

Miners should always be alert to hazards and follow proper procedures!



Pinch point on telescoping outrigger