



# DMM Safety Alert:

## Conveyor Pulley Guarding

In September 2008, a maintenance contractor employee was seriously injured while working in the processing area of a mine. The miner and a co-worker were checking a recently repaired conveyor to ensure the belt was tracking properly. After removing the access cover of the moving conveyor belt, the maintenance worker's right arm was pulled into the drive pulley assembly. The injured miner was air-lifted to a hospital where he was treated for multiple fractures to his right arm. Virginia Mineral Mining Safety Regulation **4VAC25-40-2740** recognizes the need to remove guards for testing or adjusting machinery, however, to avoid this type of accident, the Division of Mineral Mining recommends the following:

- Procedures must be established, and followed, that protect miners from being caught in moving machinery.
- Miners must keep themselves clear of moving parts.
- Utilize lock out/tag out procedures when called for.



DMM inspector points to access cover that was removed.



Access cover removed, showing area where miner was injured.