



DMM Safety Alert: **Blocking Stationary Equipment**

In May 2007, a Virginia miner was seriously injured when his chest was crushed between the blow bars and the housing of the impact crusher he was working on. The miner had just released a safety pin that kept the bars from rotating, when the unbalanced hammer unit rotated, pulling him into the crusher. The miner broke two ribs and suffered internal injuries. Over the past years, other miners have been seriously injured when parts of de-energized equipment moved due to gravity or other sources of stored energy. The Division of Mineral Mining safety regulations require miners to block stationary equipment prior to the start of repairs or maintenance. To avoid injury, safe work practices should be followed, including:

- Prior to starting work, assess potential safety and health hazards and determine the appropriate work procedures and personal protection equipment to be used.
- If equipment is electrically powered, de-energize, lock out and tag out the source of power (4VAC25-40-2140).
- Block the equipment against motion, except where motion is necessary to make adjustments. De-energize or isolate other energy sources such as stored electrical energy, hydraulic pressure, air pressure or gravity (4VAC25-40-350).
- Operate and maintain equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and operating instructions (4VAC25-40-360).



Impact crusher involved in accident

Always consider the potential hazards related to the sudden movement of equipment parts due to gravity or other stored energy when performing maintenance or repairs.