

DMM Safety Alert: Metal Chute Falls On Miner

In October 2009, a miner with 13 years of experience was seriously injured when a section of a metal chute fell over and struck him. The miner was helping to position the 1,400-pound chute on its side in a metal fabrication shop using an overhead crane so that it could be painted. The chute (approximately 9.5 feet tall and 6 inches wide with a 2 inch exterior stiffening/mounting flange) was set down on a lifting eye that protruded 1.5 inches beyond the flanges. When the crane's lifting hook was released, the chute became unstable and fell over, striking and landing on top of the worker. He suffered two fractured lumbar vertebrae, facial fractures and contusions to his right shoulder. To prevent a similar accident from occurring, the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining recommends the following:

- Materials must be handled in a manner that minimizes fall hazards.
- Tag lines must be attached to suspended loads that require steadying or guidance.
- Persons shall remain clear of suspended loads.
- Equipment/materials must be blocked against unintended motion.



Views of accident scene

