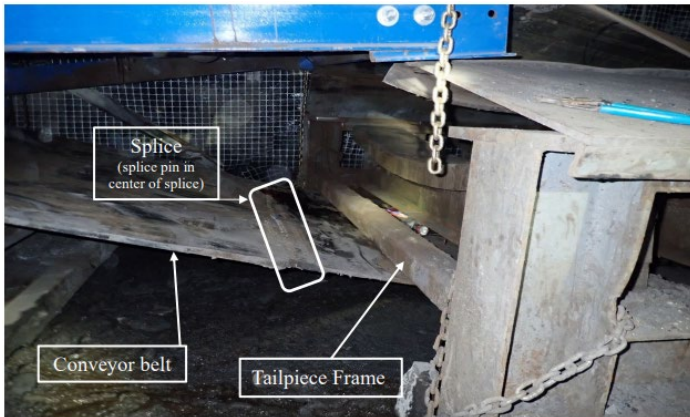


Belt Conveyor System – Stored Energy

Since 2019, two miners have died, and six miners have suffered lost time injuries from the sudden release of stored energy while working near belt conveyor systems.



A general laborer was fatally injured when he was caught between a 72-inch wide belt and the steel frame of the belt tailpiece.



A belt foreman was fatally injured when a longwall belt conveyor take-up unit component, the bridle, broke and struck him.

Best Practices

- Develop safe work procedures that eliminate or safely control stored energy in belt conveyors. The procedures must include lock out/tag out, blocking against motion, and securing the belt conveyor.
- Ensure belt conveyor moves, maintenance, and repairs are performed with the correct replacement parts, proper tools, and suitable rigging.
- Train miners on the safety aspects and safe work procedures for moving, maintaining, and repairing belt conveyors.
- Train miners to stay in safe locations while in a belt conveyor entry, away from the belt drive and take-up winch, when miners start or stop the belt.
- Install properly designed safety restraints for moving parts such as movable carriages, bridles, and take-up sleds as a backup in case primary components fail.
- Perform a risk assessment prior to beginning work to identify and control stored energy: mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and gravity.

Report accidents and hazardous conditions: 1-800-746-1553

[msha.gov](https://www.msha.gov) | askmsa@dol.gov | [@MSHA_DOL](https://twitter.com/MSHA_DOL)