

QUARRY SAFETY WEEK 2022

TOOL BOX TALK SERIES



TOPIC: Clearing Blockages

INTRODUCTION

Blockages can occur in crushers, screens, conveyors, hoppers, screws and silos. Clearing blockages can result in serious or fatal injuries if correct procedures are not adhered to.



THE HAZARDS

- Unexpected or accidental start-up of plant
- Entanglement or crush injuries in dangerous moving parts
- Defective lifting equipment
- Falls from height
- Dust
- Manual handling

SAFE OPERATING PRACTICES

- Always make yourself familiar with, and adhere to, the Isolation Procedures and Risk Assessment control measures for the item of plant you are working on.
- Make yourself familiar with the manufacturer's instruction manual where available.
- Adhere to the appropriate Safe Operating Procedure for clearing blockages.



- Never remove a guard or inspection plate, or enter into a hopper, screen or crusher area without first following the appropriate isolation procedure.
- Isolate any adjacent equipment that may affect the works. For example, if a conveyor is feeding a screen that is being worked on, the conveyor should also be fully isolated.

- If the isolation procedure is interrupted to see if the equipment can run, ensure all personnel are aware and clear of the danger area. If the equipment does not run, re-implement the isolation procedure.



- Always ensure, where applicable, that no vehicle can tip into the hopper or feeder by erecting adequate barriers or signage.
- If mechanical lifting equipment is being used to remove large stone, for example, ensure the equipment is fit for purpose and the Safe Working Load is never exceeded.

- Ensure clear communication is maintained between the operator of the lifting equipment and personnel on the ground.

- **Never raise a suspended load above another person.**

- Do not enter confined spaces unless a risk assessment has been carried out and appropriate control measures have been implemented, i.e., Permit to Work.
- Work off appropriate platforms that are in good condition and fit for purpose. Do not stand on a conveyor unless adequate edge protection is in place.

- Ensure all access ladders, handrails, mid-rails and toe boards are in place and in good condition. Report defects to your manager/supervisor. Use three points of contact when climbing access ladders.

- Never climb on, or reach over, handrails.

- Do not expose yourself to an unprotected edge.

- Keep all access/egress routes, catwalks and platforms clear of debris. Clean down the area of excess material after the blockage has been cleared.



- Water down the works area to minimise inhalation of dust.

- Appropriate PPE should be worn including dust masks, eye protection and overalls.

REMEMBER: DO NOT carry out "The Quick Job"

STOP & THINK - ALWAYS ISOLATE

Disclaimer: This Toolbox Talk has been prepared by Dynamic Safety Solutions Ltd. Clients are reminded of the requirement to have Safe Operating Procedures as per the relevant Health & Safety Regulations. Every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained herein is correct and accurate at the date of publication. However, Dynamic Safety Solutions cannot accept any responsibility or liability for any errors, inaccuracies or omissions which may have occurred inadvertently



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