

JANUARY 2026

# Hard Hat

H E A D L I N E S

MAGAZINE

**SAGO MINE  
DISASTER**

NEVER  
FORGOTTEN

**MENTAL HEALTH**

AWAKEN  
AWARENESS

**SAFETY IN PREPARATION  
PLANTS & CRUSHERS**

FROM CRUSHING POWER TO PLANT PRECISION  
SAFETY STARTS WITHIN

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The content within is provided for informational purposes only and is not affiliated with or endorsed by any government entity.

# WELCOME



At Hard Hat Headlines, our mission is simple but powerful — to start conversations that save lives. This magazine was built from the heart of the mining community, for the mining community, as a space where stories, lessons, and ideas come together with one purpose: to strengthen safety across our industry and around the world.

Inside each issue, you'll find real stories from the field, lessons learned through experience, Toolbox Talks that inspire discussion, and wellness topics that remind us that safety extends beyond the mine site. We believe that communication is the cornerstone of prevention — that by sharing what we've seen, what we've learned, and even what we've lost, we can protect one another in the shifts ahead.

Hard Hat Headlines operates independently — free from government or corporate influence — so that every article, reflection, and report speaks directly and honestly to those who live the work. Our goal is not to instruct from above, but to connect from within, amplifying the voices of miners, safety professionals, and families who understand what's truly at stake.

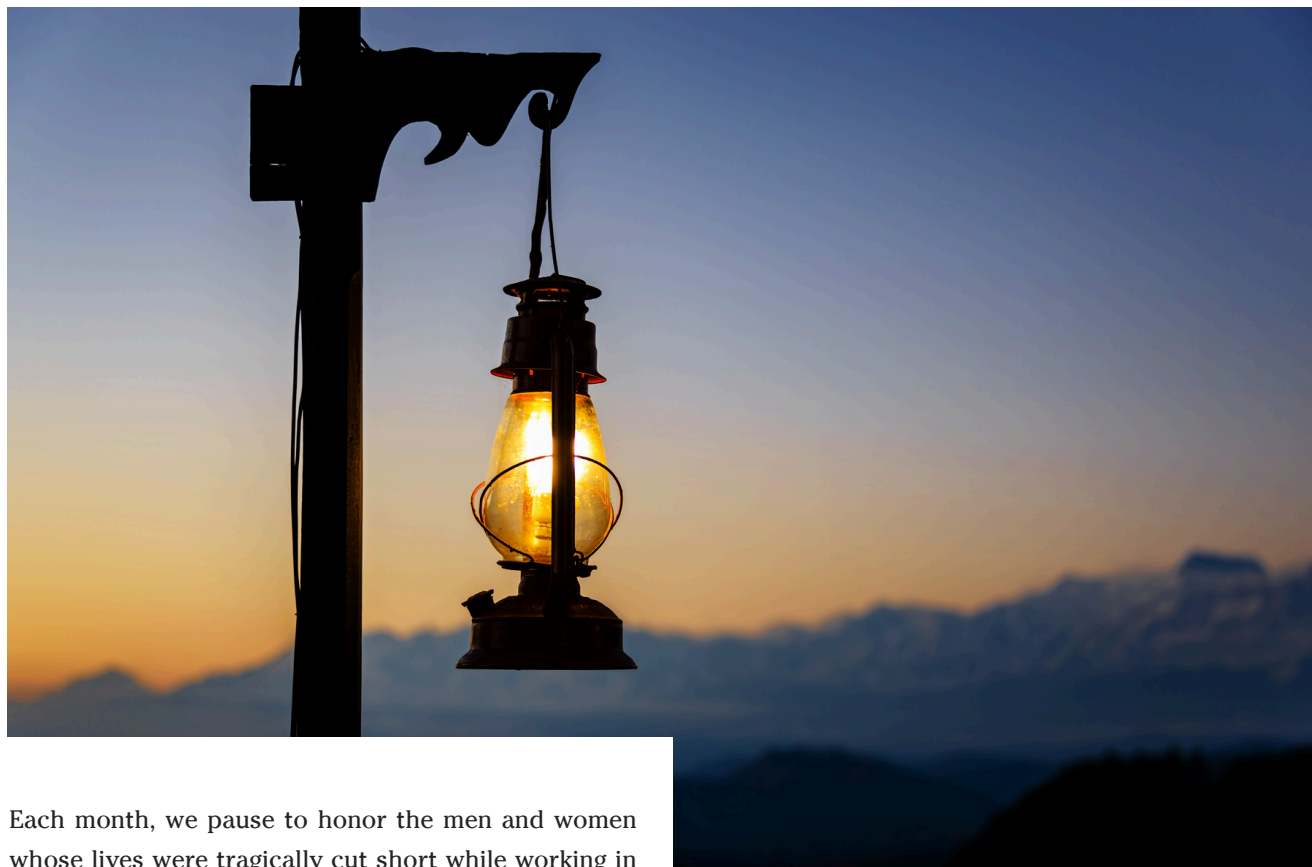
We invite you to read, to share, and to take part in the ongoing conversation about safety, health, and humanity in mining. Together, we can ensure that every headline, every idea, and every lesson moves us closer to what matters most — that every miner, everywhere, goes home safely.

— Hard Hat Headlines

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# Losses from Last Month: Honoring Those We Lost



Each month, we pause to honor the men and women whose lives were tragically cut short while working in our nation's mines. These aren't just statistics—they are fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, and friends who left home to earn an honest living and never returned. Their absence is felt deeply, not only by their families and coworkers, but by the entire mining community. Behind every name is a story—of dedication, hard work, and the silent courage that defines those who work beneath the earth or across its surface. When we lose one of our own, we lose a piece of our collective strength. It reminds us why safety must always come first, and why every precaution, every inspection, and every conversation about risk matters.

As we reflect on the losses from last month, let us do more than remember—let us renew our commitment to one another. Let their memory serve as a call to action: to remain vigilant, to speak up when something isn't right, and to look out for the person working beside us.

On the next page, you'll find the month-by-month record of lives lost throughout the year—a sobering reminder of the human cost behind the numbers. May it move us all to rededicate our efforts toward ensuring that every miner, in every shift, returns home safely. Because behind every statistic is a life that mattered—and a family forever changed.

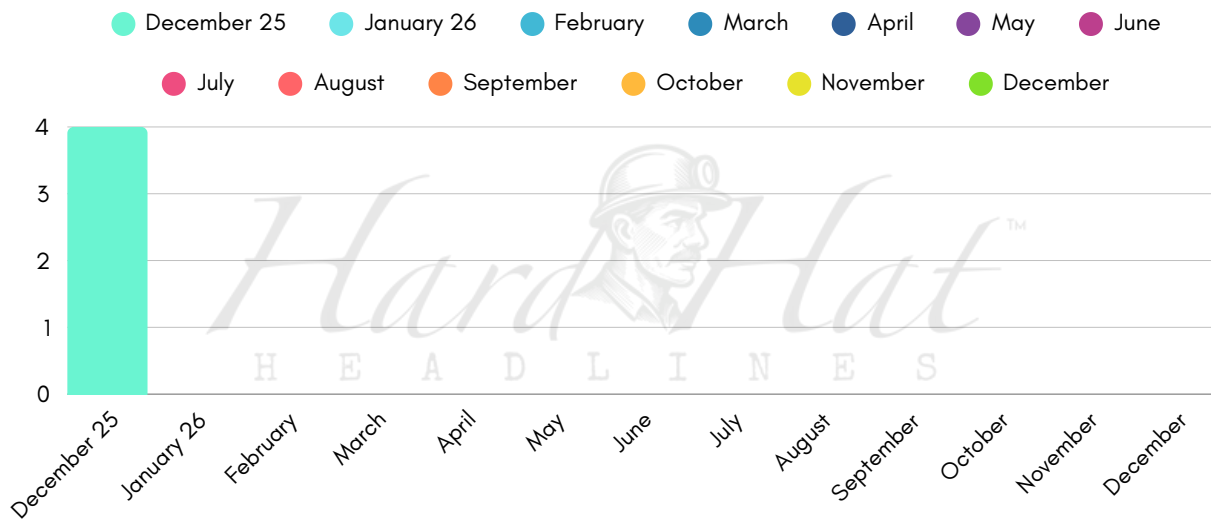


## 2026 FATALITY CURRENT MINER LOSS - 0

*Fatality Reports | Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). (n.d.). [Www.msha.gov. https://www.msha.gov/data-and-reports/fatality-reports/search](https://www.msha.gov/data-and-reports/fatality-reports/search)*

### ***Honoring Those We Lost***

As we remember all miners across the globe, we hold their families close in thought and prayer, offering compassion, strength, and the promise that their loved ones will never be forgotten.



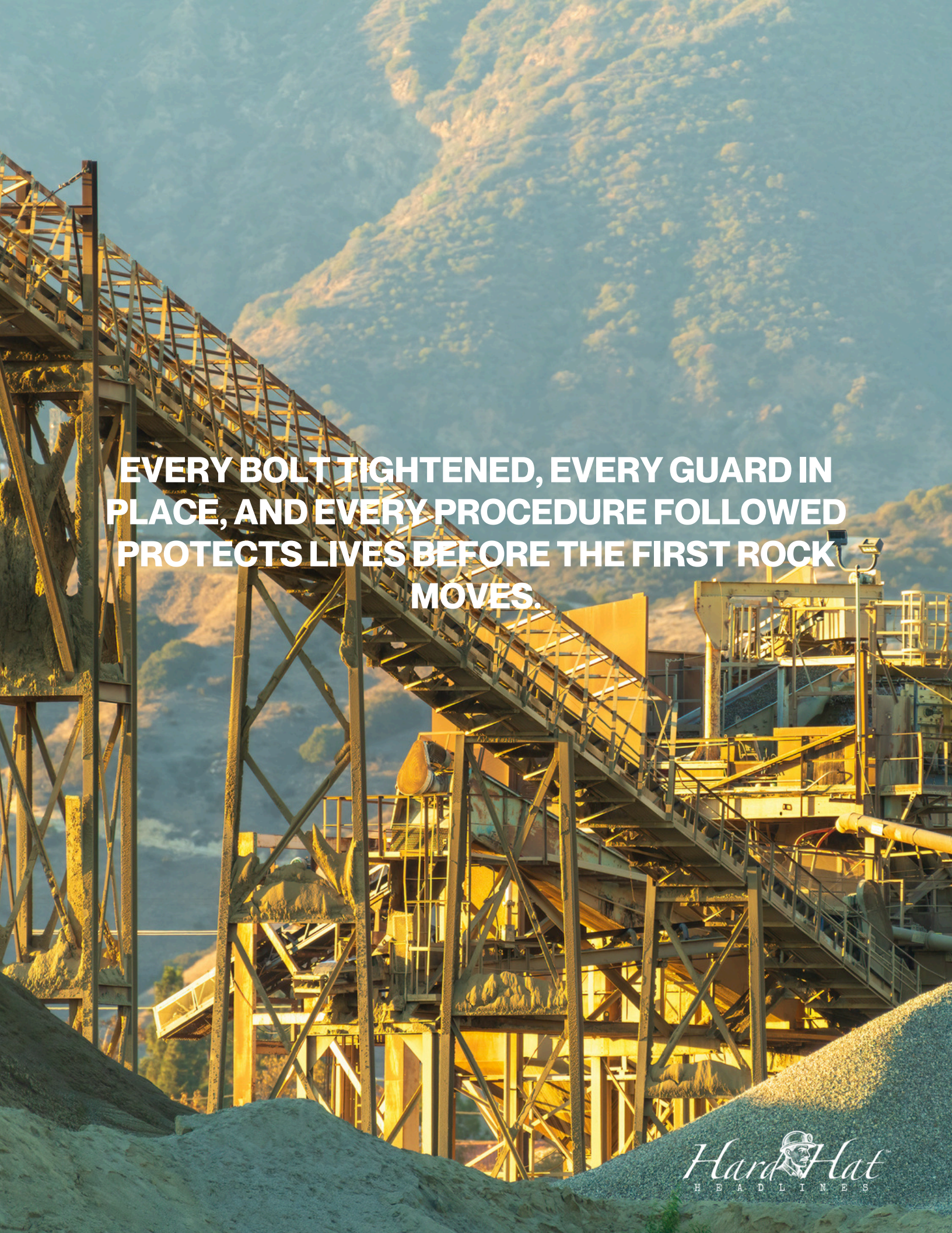
*We pause to honor the miners whose lives were tragically lost while working to provide for their families and communities.*

*Each represents more than a statistic—they were fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, friends, and neighbors whose absence leaves an empty place at the table and a heavy weight in the hearts of those who loved them.*

## December 2025

4





**EVERY BOLT TIGHTENED, EVERY GUARD IN  
PLACE, AND EVERY PROCEDURE FOLLOWED  
PROTECTS LIVES BEFORE THE FIRST ROCK  
MOVES.**



# Safety in Preparation Plants & Crushers

Preparation plants and crushers are the nerve centers of a mining operation — high throughput, lots of moving parts, lots of material transformation. That makes them hugely productive, but also places where hazards concentrate: dust, moving machinery, corrosion-weakened structure, electrical ignition sources, and micro-climates that change the behavior of materials. The good news: many of these risks are well understood and highly controllable if you layer engineering, administration, and housekeeping together.



## Regulatory Frame — What to Watch For

**30 CFR Part 56** sets the mandatory safety and health standards for surface metal and nonmetal mines — the category most preparation plants fall under. These standards focus on protecting life, promoting health, and preventing accidents.

**30 CFR Part 77** applies to surface coal mines and related surface work areas. If your operation handles coal, this is your governing standard. It mirrors many of Part 56's rules but emphasizes equipment integrity, electrical safety, and ground control in coal-specific environments.

When developing or auditing plant procedures, treat Part 56 (metal/nonmetal) and Part 77 (coal) as your backbone — then layer in best practices for strength, dust mitigation, explosion prevention, and overall operational safety.



## CORROSION IN PLANTS — WHY IT MATTERS

*Corrosion is more than just rust on steel — it's a silent threat that weakens structural support*



### Interior vs. Exterior Hazards — A Quick Comparison

When we talk about safety in preparation plants and crushers, it's important to think about where the hazards actually live — inside the plant, or outside around the stockpiles and conveyors.

Inside the plant, conditions can change fast. Dust becomes concentrated in enclosed areas like mills, transfer points, or chutes where ventilation is often limited. Layers of fine material can settle on beams and ledges, waiting for one spark to ignite. Add in hot bearings, overloaded electrical cabinets, and the constant threat of corrosion on structural supports, and you've got an environment that demands routine cleaning, inspection, and maintenance. Even the simplest job inside can become high-risk when confined spaces are involved.

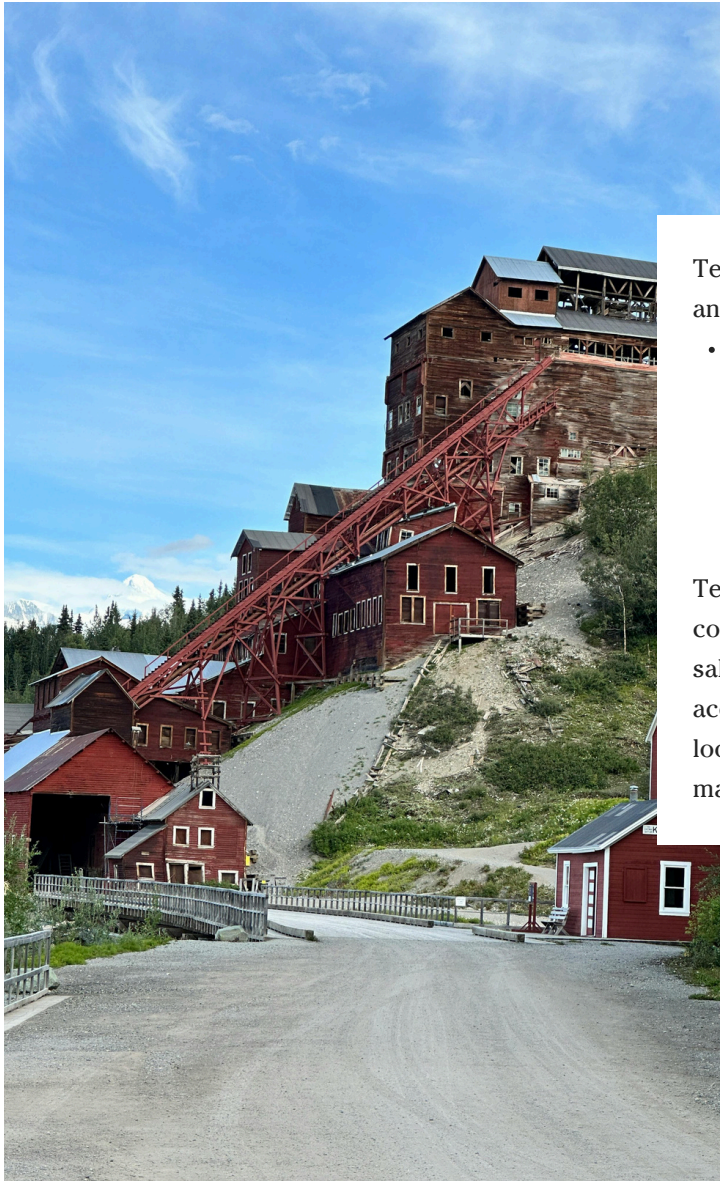
***Corrosion weakens more than steel—it erodes safety, reliability, and trust in every plant operation.***

Step outside, and the challenges shift. You're facing wind-blown dust, rain, and splash corrosion around feeders, crushers, and conveyors. The equipment takes a beating from the elements — from blazing summer heat to freezing winter nights. Thermal expansion and contraction stress metal parts, while ice and frost add slipping and mechanical hazards in cold weather. Electrical boxes and cables exposed to moisture or temperature extremes can also fail unexpectedly, turning small maintenance issues into serious safety concerns.

Whether inside or out, both environments demand focused safety planning — because the risks might look different, but the results of ignoring them are the same.

## TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY AND PLANT ATMOSPHERE — THE HIDDEN MODIFIERS

*Fluctuations in temperature and humidity quietly shape the environment inside every preparation plant*



Temperature and humidity change how dust behaves and how equipment ages:

- Humidity & moisture can reduce the tendency for some dusts to become airborne (dampening), but it can also promote corrosion, clumping that plugs hoppers (creating bridging and rat-holing), and, in some chemistries, formation of more reactive compounds.

Temperature swings (day/night or seasonal) drive condensation cycles on cold surfaces: moisture forms, salt or chemical residues concentrate, and corrosion accelerates. Thermal expansion or contraction also loosens fasteners and can change clearances on machines, increasing wear.

***Shifting temperature and humidity quietly alter safety conditions, affecting dust behavior, corrosion, and equipment reliability.***

Warm air can increase moisture and corrosion, while cold snaps cause condensation that damages electrical systems and bearings. Even minor shifts in the plant's atmosphere can change how dust behaves, how equipment wears, and how safely workers can perform their jobs. Monitoring and controlling these conditions keeps operations stable, efficient, and safe.

Operational takeaway: monitor temperature and relative humidity in enclosed processing areas, and factor seasonal thermal cycles into inspection & maintenance intervals. Consider dedicated de-humidification or controlled heating in sensitive enclosures where humidity drives failure or explosion risk.

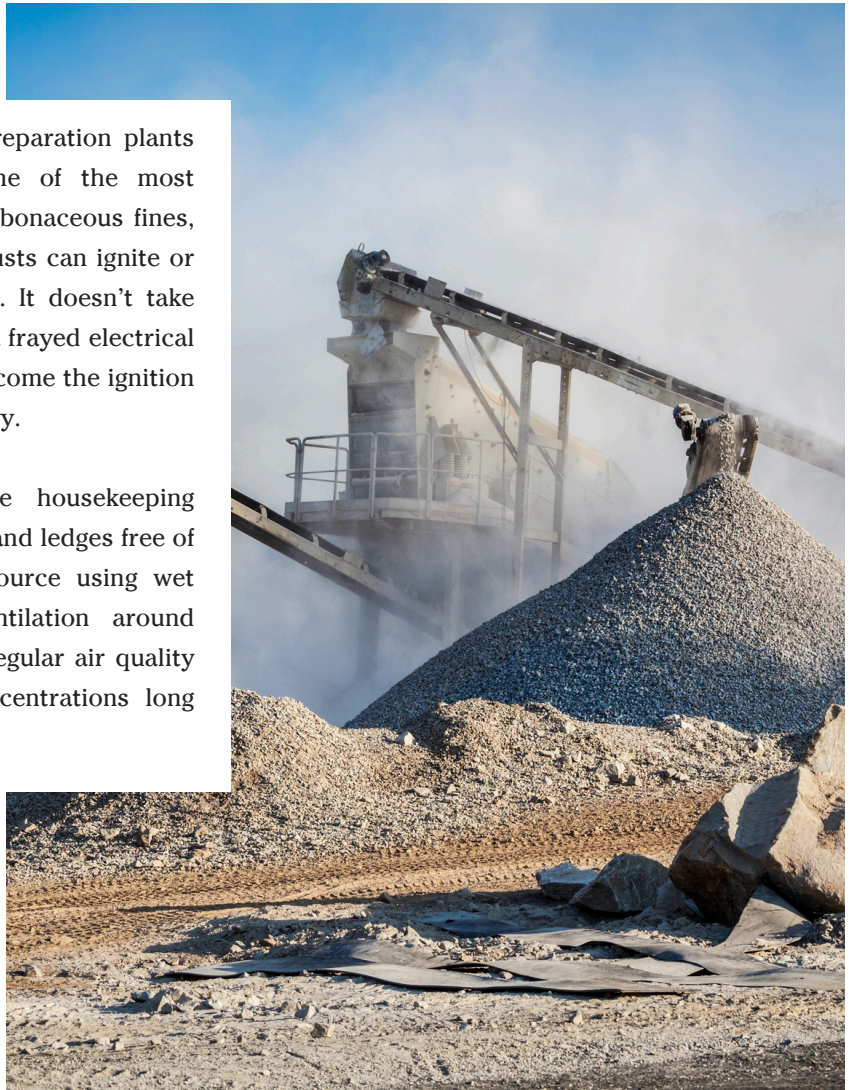


## COMBUSTIBLE DUST AND ACCUMULATION

*Combustible dust poses a hidden but potentially fatal hazard, demanding vigilant control and proactive prevention.*

Dust might look harmless, but in preparation plants and crushing areas, it can be one of the most dangerous hazards on site. Coal, carbonaceous fines, and even certain metal or mineral dusts can ignite or explode when suspended in the air. It doesn't take much—a worn bearing running hot, a frayed electrical wire, or a stray welding spark can become the ignition source if dust accumulations are heavy.

The best defense is a proactive housekeeping program. Keep floors, beams, ducts, and ledges free of buildup, and control dust at its source using wet suppression or local exhaust ventilation around crushers, screens, and conveyors. Regular air quality checks can identify dangerous concentrations long before they become explosive.



The NFPA 654 is designed to minimize the dangers of dust-related explosions and fires across multiple industries, from chemicals and plastics to pharmaceuticals and mineral processing. It outlines clear guidance for recognizing combustible dust hazards, applying effective control measures, and maintaining consistent cleaning and housekeeping practices to prevent ignition and accumulation.

Always align your prevention efforts with NFPA 654 standards for dust explosion protection and MSHA regulations under Parts 56 and 77 for combustible materials. Remember—preventing the first explosion is far easier than surviving the second, when the force of the blast shakes loose settled dust and reignites it into a deadly fireball.



## IDEA-BASED SAFETY STRATEGIES — TURNING KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION

Safety in preparation plants and crushers doesn't happen by chance—it's engineered, monitored, and reinforced every day. One of the most effective approaches is to engineer dust out of the environment: enclose conveyors and transfer points, install dust collectors or baghouses, and maintain proper air exchange to keep airborne hazards under control.

Corrosion management is equally critical. A formal inspection log, prioritized repairs, and employee training on early detection ensure that rust and deterioration never become a hidden threat. Coupled with environmental monitoring—tracking humidity, temperature, and particulate levels—maintenance teams gain the insight needed to prevent fires, corrosion, and equipment failure before they occur.

Electrical systems require equal attention. Using explosion-proof or dust-tight enclosures, maintaining grounding, and controlling static discharge keep energy sources from becoming hazards. Likewise, lockout/tagout and confined space procedures safeguard employees whenever work is performed inside bins, chutes, or hoppers, ensuring no one is exposed to uncontrolled energy or confined-space risks.

Preventive maintenance remains the backbone of plant safety. Regular lubrication, inspection of bearings, replacement of worn seals, and proper tensioning of belts and chains protect equipment from overheating and mechanical failure. But even the best systems depend on people—employee training and empowerment turn awareness into action. Encouraging near-miss reporting, engaging operators in daily walk-throughs, and including corrosion and dust control in refresher training fosters a culture of accountability and vigilance.

Ultimately, safety in preparation plants and crushers is a combination of engineered solutions, disciplined procedures, and empowered employees. By putting these strategies into practice, plants don't just comply with regulations—they create a safer, more efficient environment where hazards are managed, risks are minimized, and every worker goes home safely at the end of the day.

As the new year begins, preparation plants and crusher operations should renew focus on the fundamentals—clean, inspect, and maintain. Safety isn't just about compliance with Parts 56 and 77; it's about understanding the physical and chemical changes happening inside the plant every day. When corrosion, dust, and temperature shifts go unchecked, small issues become disasters. With disciplined inspections, data-driven maintenance, and employee engagement, the plant becomes a model of prevention—not reaction.





## Where Mining Minds Meet Innovation

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# The Silent Indicator: Why Working Gauges Save Lives

*Accurate pressure gauges are small but critical—monitoring them protects equipment, prevents explosions, and saves lives*

Pressure is one of the most powerful—and dangerous—forces in the industrial world. In mining, maintenance, and plant operations, tanks, compressors, and other pressurized systems are vital for daily production. Yet the safety of these systems often rests on one small component: the pressure gauge. When gauges are ignored, damaged, or inaccurate, the results can be catastrophic.

## **Why Gauges Matter**

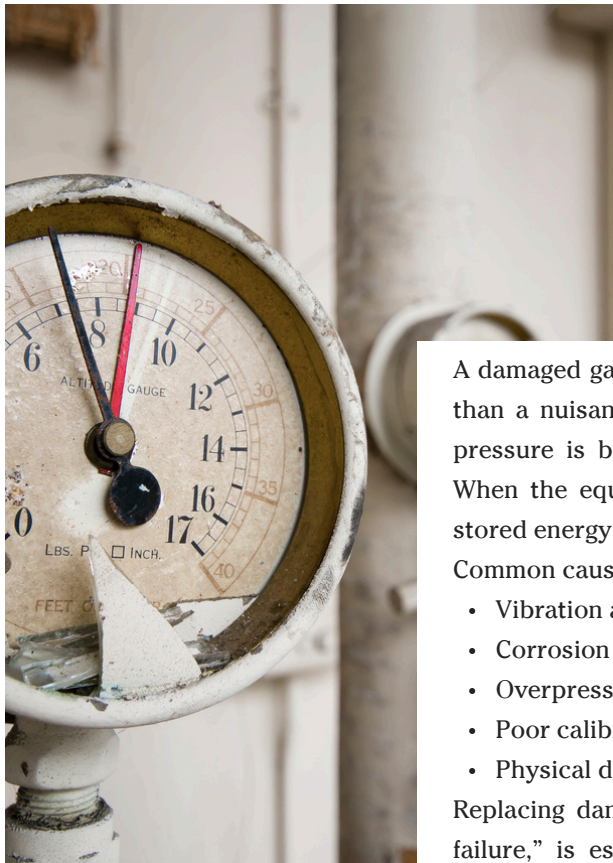
Pressure gauges are the eyes of any pressurized system. They provide real-time data on internal conditions, allowing operators to make critical decisions about safety and performance.



Without accurate readings, equipment such as air compressors, hydraulic systems, or slurry tanks may exceed their designed limits, creating conditions for rupture, explosion, or mechanical failure.

Gauges also serve as early warning devices. A slowly rising pressure reading might reveal a clogged filter, faulty regulator, or failing relief valve long before disaster strikes. Regularly inspecting and testing gauges ensures that these silent sentinels remain reliable and trustworthy.





## THE RISK OF DAMAGED OR INACCURATE GAUGES

A damaged gauge—cracked lens, bent needle, or corroded fitting—is more than a nuisance; it’s a hazard. A gauge that reads “normal” when actual pressure is building beyond safe limits gives operators false assurance. When the equipment’s safety relief system finally engages—or fails—the stored energy can release violently.

Common causes of gauge failure include:

- Vibration and mechanical shock from heavy machinery
- Corrosion from moisture, chemicals, or mine atmospheres
- Overpressure events that permanently deform the gauge mechanism
- Poor calibration or clogged bourdon tubes
- Physical damage from tools, debris, or accidental impact

Replacing damaged gauges immediately, rather than “running them until failure,” is essential. Each gauge should also be periodically calibrated according to the manufacturer’s schedule or more frequently in harsh environments.

### The Role of Operational Checklists

Including a gauge inspection on daily operational checklists is a simple but powerful preventive measure.

These checks ensure:

1. Gauges are present, undamaged, and clearly readable.
2. The pressure readings fall within expected ranges during operation and at idle.
3. Any abnormal reading triggers prompt investigation or shutdown.
4. Gauge calibration stickers or records are current.

Supervisors should train workers to recognize when a gauge looks “off,” such as condensation behind the lens, needle flutter, or a gauge stuck at the same reading every day. Visual inspection only takes seconds but can prevent millions of dollars in damage—and save lives.

*Visual inspection only takes seconds but can prevent millions of dollars in damage—and save lives*



# Lessons from History: The 2010 Middletown Power Plant Explosion

## *Learning from tragedy*

A sobering example of pressure mismanagement occurred on February 7, 2010, at the Kleen Energy Systems natural gas power plant in Middletown, Connecticut. During a pre-operational “gas blow” to clean fuel lines, natural gas was released into confined areas. Faulty instrumentation—including pressure-monitoring devices that failed to provide accurate readings—contributed to operators underestimating the amount of gas in the system. The resulting explosion killed six workers and injured more than 50 others (U.S. Chemical Safety Board [CSB], 2010).

Investigators found that inadequate monitoring, reliance on faulty or missing gauges, and failure to verify pressure levels directly led to the disaster. The CSB emphasized the need for accurate pressure instrumentation and routine verification of gauges and safety devices on all pressurized systems—not just those handling gas.

This tragedy underscores a universal truth: when gauges are inaccurate, the human eye is blind to danger.

*Investigators found that inadequate monitoring, reliance on faulty or missing gauges, and failure to verify pressure levels directly led to the disaster.*

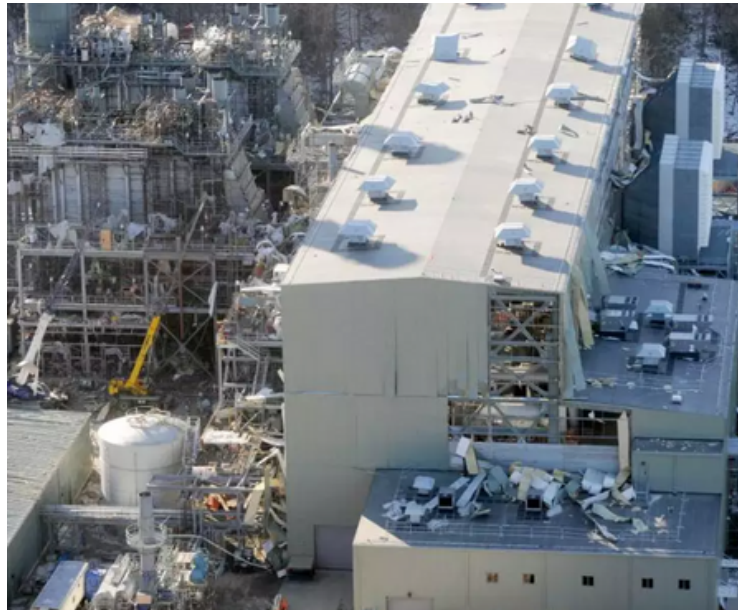


Photo Credit: Connecticut Post

## **Creating a Culture of Pressure Awareness**

A successful pressure-safety culture combines training, inspection, and accountability:

- **Train:** Teach every operator how to read and interpret gauges correctly.
- **Inspect:** Require daily gauge checks on compressors, air receivers, tanks, and pipelines.
- **Replace:** Immediately remove and replace any gauge that is cracked, corroded, fogged, or reading erratically.
- **Record:** Document readings and maintenance actions to identify trends or recurring issues.
- **Verify:** Periodically calibrate gauges and cross-check with master instruments or digital references.

These simple actions turn routine maintenance into life-saving prevention.



# Safety on Catwalks and Ladders in Mining Plants and Crushers

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*Catwalks and ladders may seem like simple access points in mining plants and crushers, but they are critical areas where safety cannot be overlooked. From secure handrails to guarding moving equipment and maintaining proper traction, every detail matters in preventing slips, trips, and falls.*



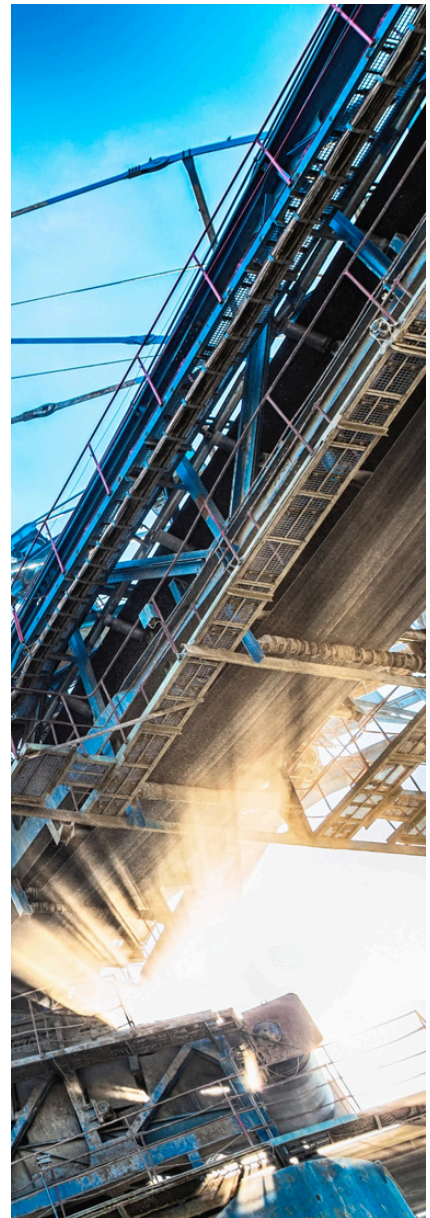
Catwalks and ladders are critical access points throughout mining plants and crusher facilities, providing personnel with safe passage for inspections, maintenance, and operational tasks. While they are essential, these structures also present potential hazards if not properly designed, maintained, and used. Understanding the key safety considerations can prevent accidents and protect workers from serious injuries.

**Handrails and Guardrails:** One of the most important safety features on any catwalk or ladder is a secure handrail system. Handrails provide stability for personnel navigating narrow or elevated walkways, reducing the risk of falls. Properly installed guardrails, including midrails and toe boards where required, offer an additional layer of protection against slipping or losing balance, particularly when working near high-risk areas.

**Guarding of Moving Equipment:** Catwalks frequently run adjacent to conveyor rollers, pulleys, and other moving components. These areas pose pinch-point and entanglement hazards. All exposed moving parts near walkways should be fully guarded, with barriers or covers designed to prevent accidental contact. Employees must remain aware of these hazards and follow lockout/tagout procedures during maintenance.

Traction on Inclines and Declines: Walking surfaces on catwalks and ladders can become slippery due to dust, water, or spilled materials. Ensuring proper traction through non-slip surfaces, grated walkways, or anti-skid coatings is essential, especially on inclined or declined sections. Employees should always wear appropriate footwear and maintain three points of contact when ascending or descending ladders.

By prioritizing handrail integrity, guarding moving equipment, and maintaining traction, mining operations can reduce the risk of slips, trips, and falls on catwalks and ladders. These seemingly small precautions can save lives, making every step safer for those who keep our plants and crushers running.





# Close Call Corner: How One Unmapped Gas Well Nearly Claimed an Entire Crew

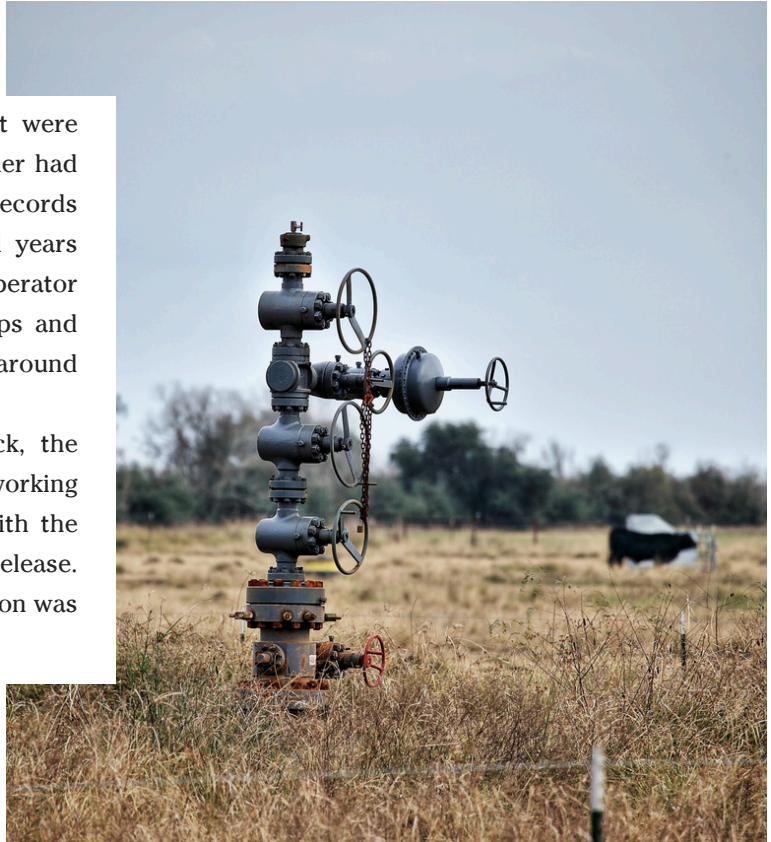
In early 2011, miners working a routine shift were shocked to discover that their continuous miner had intersected a previously known gas well. Records showed that this well had been documented years earlier, but by the time of the incident, the operator had failed to include it on updated mine maps and had not maintained the required safety barrier around it.

As the miners cut into the surrounding rock, the hazard became immediately clear: they were working dangerously close to a source of methane, with the potential for explosion, fire, or toxic gas release. Fortunately, no one was injured, and the situation was contained before disaster occurred.

## *What happened:*

Investigators determined that the operator's mapping and monitoring process had failed. The gas well had been removed from the mine's digital maps and the protective safety barrier was never reestablished, despite regulatory requirements. Mining continued in the area without recognition of the hazard, creating conditions the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission later classified as an "unwarrantable failure."

No injuries occurred, yet this incident is a textbook example of a close call. The miners were exposed to a serious hazard that could have resulted in catastrophic consequences. The risk was not random—it stemmed from preventable administrative failures, including inaccurate mapping and lack of barrier enforcement. The incident highlights how quickly a known hazard, if left unmonitored, can escalate into a life-threatening situation.



This event serves as a crucial reminder for all mining operations: hazards that are “on paper” must also be actively controlled in the field. A missing map entry or a neglected safety barrier can turn routine operations into near-disasters. Vigilance in documentation, barrier maintenance, and hazard verification is essential to prevent the next close call from becoming a tragedy.

Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. (2013, December 6). Secretary of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) v. Dominion Coal Corporation, Docket No. VA 2012-163. Retrieved from [https://www.fmshrc.gov/sites/default/files/decisions/alj/ALJ\\_12062013-VA%202012-163.htm](https://www.fmshrc.gov/sites/default/files/decisions/alj/ALJ_12062013-VA%202012-163.htm)

## FOCUSED CONVERSATIONS THAT BUILD SAFER CREWS

### Key Hazards to Recognize:

- Dust and Airborne Particulates: Fine dust accumulations can ignite, explode, or damage lungs over time. Maintain ventilation and keep surfaces clean.
- Moving Equipment: Guards, emergency stops, and lockout/tagout aren't just regulations — they're lifesavers. Always verify power isolation before working on conveyors, crushers, or screens.
- Corrosion and Wear: Corroded walkways, handrails, or bolts in damp areas can fail underfoot. Include corrosion checks in inspections.
- Noise and Vibration: High noise levels and constant vibration can dull awareness — use hearing protection and rest periods to stay sharp.

### Discussion Points for the Crew:

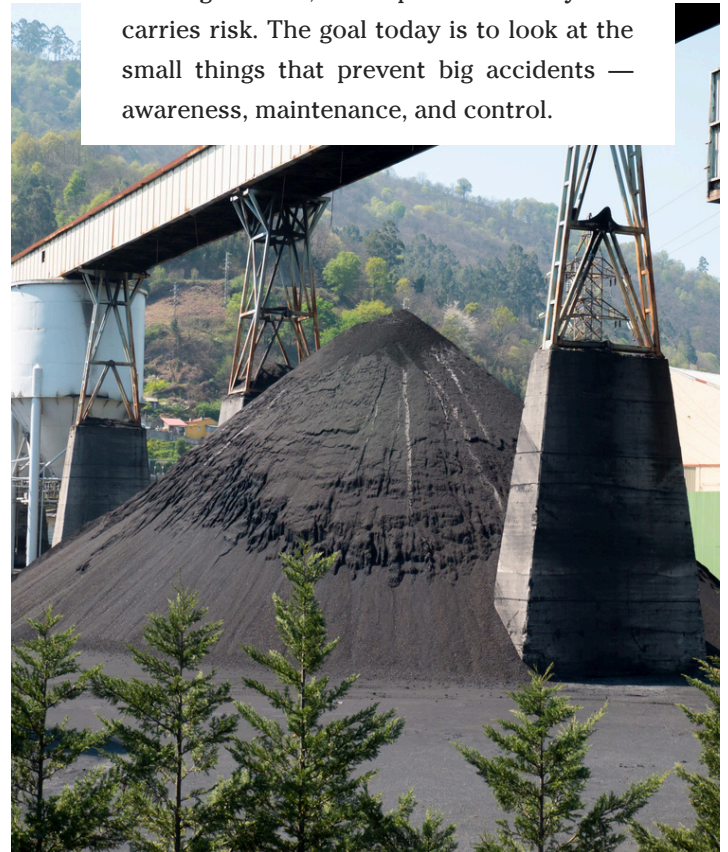
- What's the most common hazard you see around crushers or plant equipment?
- When was the last time you spotted corrosion or buildup on structural steel or walkways?
- How often do we clean or inspect behind guards or around transfer points?

### Best Practices to Reinforce:

- Keep dust under control using wet suppression or ventilation.
- Inspect gauges, hoses, and pressure systems daily for leaks or damage.
- Report corrosion immediately — don't assume someone else will.
- Follow lockout/tagout every time, no matter how short the job.
- Maintain clear communication between plant operators and maintenance crews.

## SAFETY IN PREPARATION PLANTS AND CRUSHERS

Preparation plants and crushers are the heartbeat of production — but they're also some of the most complex and hazardous areas on site. Whether handling coal, aggregate, or minerals, every moving belt, rotating screen, and pressurized system carries risk. The goal today is to look at the small things that prevent big accidents — awareness, maintenance, and control.



### Closing Message:

Every hazard in a preparation plant or crusher area gives warnings before it becomes an accident — a sticking belt, a hot bearing, a rusted support. Listen to those warnings. Awareness and action prevent tragedy. A safe plant isn't one that runs without problems — it's one where problems are found and fixed before someone gets hurt.

***Awareness, Maintenance, and  
Control – The Big Three for Plant  
Safety***





# THE WELLNESS WATCH



## Quick Insights: Wellness News in a Glimpse

The Wellness Watch is a monthly feature dedicated to raising awareness about chronic diseases and the impact they have on individuals, families, and communities. Each edition highlights a different condition, offering insight, support, and practical knowledge to encourage healthier lifestyles and stronger awareness.

While Hard Hat Headlines is rooted in the mining community, The Wellness Watch extends beyond the industry to remind us all that health is our most valuable resource.

## Who Is At Risk?

Anyone can develop heart disease, but certain factors raise the likelihood:

- Individuals with high blood pressure, diabetes, or high cholesterol
- Smokers or those exposed to secondhand smoke
- People with a family history of heart disease
- Workers under physical strain or experiencing chronic stress
- Older adults and men over 45 or women over 55



## In Focus: Heart Disease and Management

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States. It includes several conditions that affect the heart's structure and function, such as coronary artery disease, heart failure, and arrhythmias. Over time, factors like high blood pressure, diabetes, and smoking damage the arteries, making it harder for the heart to supply blood efficiently. During the colder months, the heart works harder to maintain body temperature, which can increase stress on the cardiovascular system — especially for those with underlying risk factors.

## Why it Matters?

Heart disease often develops silently, showing few symptoms until a serious event such as a heart attack occurs. This makes awareness, screening, and prevention critical. Lifestyle choices like eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly, quitting tobacco, and managing stress can significantly reduce risk. For people in physically demanding or high-stress industries like mining, long hours, fatigue, and limited access to healthy food options can increase vulnerability. Recognizing the warning signs — chest discomfort, shortness of breath, fatigue, or nausea — and responding quickly can save lives.



It's a New Year! Heart health begins with prevention. Annual checkups, monitoring blood pressure and cholesterol, maintaining a healthy weight, and staying active are simple steps that make a big difference. The heart is the engine that keeps everything running — take care of it, and it will take care of you. Have it checked today!





# MENTAL HEALTH

*IN MINING*

## *The Ripple We Don't See*

Picture a still pond — calm, quiet, undisturbed. Then imagine a single rock breaking the surface. The ripples spread outward, touching every edge, even though the rock has long since sunk out of sight.

In mining, the same happens with mental health. One person's silent struggle may seem invisible on the surface — but the impact moves outward, affecting families, crews, and entire communities. Each miner's emotional and mental well-being is connected to those around them, just like those expanding ripples in the water.

Our industry is known for strength, endurance, and resilience, but beneath that toughness often lies exhaustion, stress, isolation, and grief.



The pressure to “keep going” — long shifts, production demands, separation from family — can take a heavy toll on the mind and spirit. Yet when we talk openly about mental health, we begin to calm those waters again.

Every conversation, every check-in, every time we ask, “**You doing okay?**”, becomes another ripple — one that spreads hope instead of hurt.

This January, let's make it part of our safety culture to see beyond the hard hats and work boots. Let's notice the ripples, offer support, and remind one another that it's okay to talk, to reach out, and to heal.

Because in the pond of our mining community, no ripple should go unnoticed.

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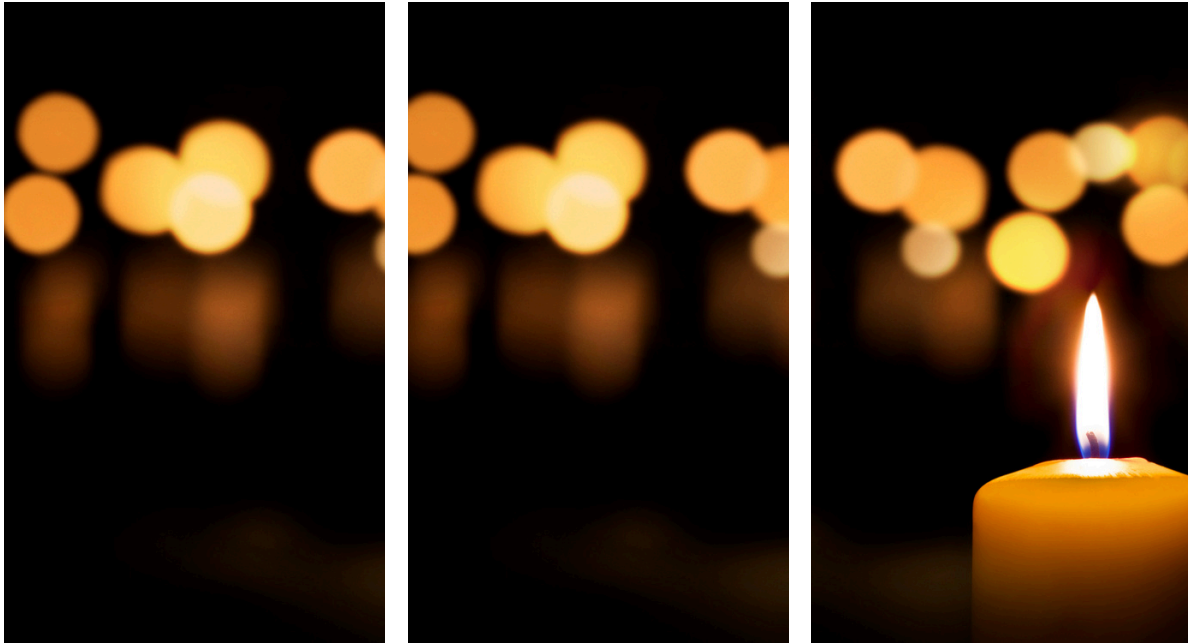


**WE HONOR OUR FALLEN MINERS NOT ONLY  
IN MEMORY, BUT IN EVERY ACT OF SAFETY  
THAT SAVES ANOTHER LIFE.**

*Hard Hat*<sup>TM</sup>  
H E A D L I N E S

# A Tribute

## THE SAGO MINE DISASTER



On January 2, 2006, the first workday of a new year, a quiet morning in Upshur County, West Virginia, was shattered by a sudden explosion deep within the Sago Mine. The blast, fueled by methane and coal dust, tore through the early shift, cutting off all communication and trapping thirteen miners nearly two miles underground.

For nearly two days, families gathered at the mine's entrance, clinging to hope as rescue crews worked tirelessly against time, toxic gases, and collapsing passages. When the rescuers finally reached the barricaded group, the heartbreaking truth emerged—twelve miners had perished from carbon monoxide poisoning. One man, Randal McCloy Jr., was found alive, barely clinging to life.

Randy's survival became a symbol of resilience, but his recovery carried the weight of unimaginable loss. The twelve who did not return home that day—fathers, husbands, sons, and friends—remain etched in the hearts of their families and the mining community forever.

Their courage and sacrifice remind us that safety in mining is not just a regulation—it is a promise owed to every person who steps below the surface to earn an honest living. As we honor the fallen and the lone survivor, we recommit ourselves to vigilance, compassion, and the unbreakable bond that defines miners everywhere.

May their memory guide us toward a future where no shift begins without the certainty that every miner will return home.



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