



EFFECTIVE ISOLATION – HOPPER MAINTENANCE

DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

As part of planned maintenance, contractors were repairing a conveyor belt under a hardstone feed bin. A loading shovel operator had been instructed to load the bins but mistakenly loaded the wrong set.

Whilst the contractors were not working in the line of fire, the noise from the discharge of material startled those in the area and caused them to leave the area hastily.



KEY FINDINGS

- Despite verbal instructions given to all members of staff onsite at the time, there was a miscommunication which led to the incorrect bins being loaded.
- The requirement for a physical barrier had not been identified in the isolation cards; risk assessment; worksafe or permit to work.

HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED?

Through the use of a physical barrier, cordoning off the working area and appropriate signage.

KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Ensure isolation cards consider controls for all forms of energy, including physical barriers to control mobile plant material handling.
- Ensure Worksafes carried out at point of work, consider all forms of energy and traffic management.
- Clear communication and team briefings.



Look after yourself and each other



Don't let anyone act unsafely, always stop unsafe practices.

Isolation Procedures



Never work on live or moving machinery – always 'lock out'.

Safe Systems



Follow safe systems of work, site rules, signage and traffic signals.

Incident/Hazard alerts



Report all incidents/hazards immediately.