

LTI – EMPLOYEE – HIT BY BUCKET ELEVATOR – 12/09/2022

INCIDENT DETAILS

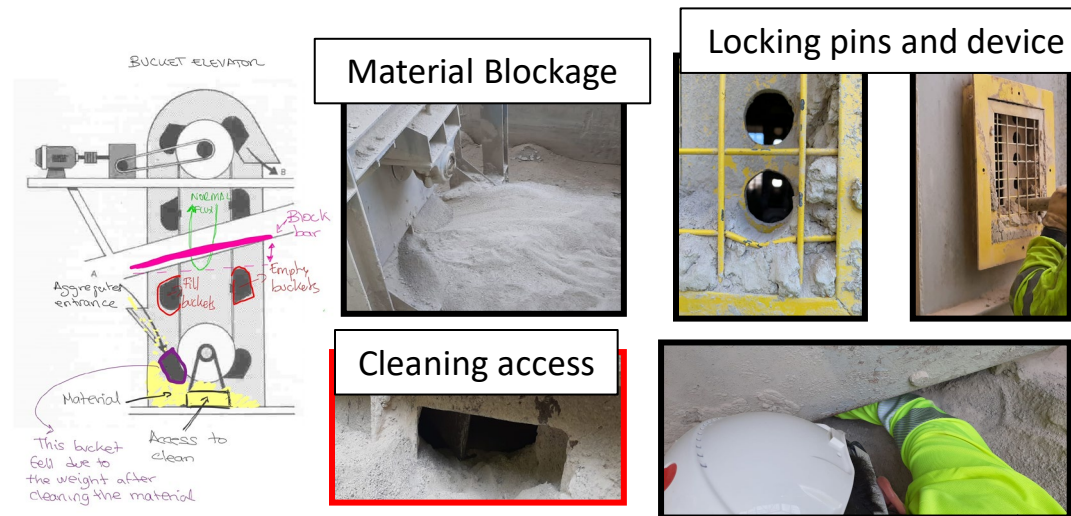
Around 5:45pm the operator detected a blockage in the aggregate bucket elevator of the readymix plant. After he performed electrical isolation, he went to the top of the elevator to place the mechanical locking bar through the bucket chains and then started to remove the material through the hole located at the bottom of the elevator. The operator used a manual tool to remove the excess material of fine sand that produced the blockage and after 15 minutes the buckets released and hit the worker's forearm at elbow height. The operator requested help from other plant personnel who then alerted the emergency services. He was taken to the hospital to have a surgery after fracturing a bone in his forearm

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ The employee wore all the relevant PPE.
- ✓ The employee was experienced and knew the general LOTOTO procedure, both electrical and mechanical and had received the corresponding training.
- ✓ Blockages in this elevator were very rare
- ✗ The procedure was found to be generic and not specific to the equipment or site.
- ✗ The employee wasn't able to insert the locking bar securely through both ends of the elevator shaft due to the original design of the guard (mesh and holes).
- ✗ The tool used for the removal of the material was not suitable because it caused the operator to insert part of his arm into the elevator area.
- ✗ Access to the area that needed unblocking was small.
- ✗ It was the end of his shift and he wanted to clear the blockage before the following morning. The worker did not perform the Take 5 and a Permit to Work wasn't carried out.

HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED?

- Never put yourself or others in the line of fire.
- Lockout systems must be checked periodically.
- Clear, concise and current safety procedures, which have been developed with the workforce to ensure they are well understood and effective



KEY REVIEW POINTS:

- Always STOP & THINK before performing an activity - Take 5! Speak up if you are unsure of cannot follow the correct procedures
- Be sure you have the correct tools and equipment for the task.
- Report always defective equipment or critical devices.
- Follow LOTOTO procedures as indicated.
- Periodic leadership site visits



Isolation Procedures

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

Tools and Equipment

Use the right, well maintained, tools/ equipment for the job. Never make do.

Safe Systems

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

