

NEVER FORGET...STAY SAFE



Sunday 19th February marks the 14th anniversary of the death of Gary Ward, an experienced contract Maintenance Engineer. Gary was working for us on a quarry, when he climbed beneath a tracked mobile crusher to inspect a problem; tragically, he left the engine running and an intermittent fault caused the tracks to move, the machine settled into the ground, crushing Gary to death. He was 43 at the time, with two children aged 12 and 8, and engaged to be married later that year.



The investigation by the HSE took some 5 years and culminated with a court case just before Christmas 2014, where CEMEX and Gary Ward's employer were fined a total of £145,000; under the Sentencing Guidelines, this fine would be far higher if the case came to court today.



ISOLATION PROCEDURES

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

The Investigation Identified Some Key Learning Points

- The Safe System of Work for the machine referred to the need to close down the engine and “lock out” by applying a personal padlock...**Do you always follow isolation procedures and avoid taking short cuts? Are the procedures clear / concise, easy to follow and well understood?**
- Despite recent isolation training and holding the industry safety passport, Gary accessed the machine without ensuring it wouldn't operate...**Would you STEP IN and Take 5 Together if you thought someone was working unsafely?**
- An “open” Permit to Work was in place for the overall contract processing operations; however, there was no specific Permit for the maintenance tasks on the day...**Do we ensure effective supervision of contract activities, with necessary Permits to Work in place?**
- A number of defects were identified on the processing plant, which may have contributed to the intermittent fault...**Do we ensure robust maintenance schemes are in place?**

While infrequent, there are still occasions where people fail to follow isolation procedures before starting work on live equipment, putting themselves at risk of injury. Please, look after yourself and each other, always Lock Out, Tag Out, Try Out (LOTOTO)

