Kentucky DMS – Fatality No. 1

On Friday October 9th 2020, a 48-year-old surface miner with approximately 27 years mining experience, 2 days at this mine, was fatally injured while working at a surface mine in the Harlan Branch.

The accident occurred while the victim was changing the nozzle on the hydro-seeder’s discharge gun. The victim was positioned on top of the truck and after changing the nozzle on the gun, he was then struck by a release of energy as the pump engaged.

The Accident Scene

Location of the victim at the time of the accident

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provide additional training for all work procedures emphasizing best practices for each specific task.
2. Be aware of your location in relation to movement of equipment and any potential release of stored energy.
3. A safe means of locking and tagging-out, and blocking against motion of all equipment parts shall be provided where a potential hazard exists.