



**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET
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**EMERGENCY AWARENESS BULLETIN
No. 2 – 2026**

Kentucky Division of Mine Safety EAB No. 2 – Machinery

On March 17th, 2026, a 37-year-old repairman with approximately 19-years of mining experience was injured while working on the surface area of an underground mine in the Harlan Branch.

The miner was operating a Grace Industries 48-volt battery-powered belt commander personnel carrier down an incline from the mine portal to the shop area. When the mechanical rear-end gearing failed, allowing the machine to run away down the slope. The machine overturned, resulting in blunt force trauma-type injuries to the operator.

Incident Scene



Recommendations

1. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding maintenance.
2. Conduct thorough pre-operational checks on all equipment prior to operation.
3. When possible, on inclined roadways, install proper runaway ramps for the slope conditions.
4. Ensure that all updated manufactured braking systems are installed and in proper working order on all equipment.