



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET DEPARTMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

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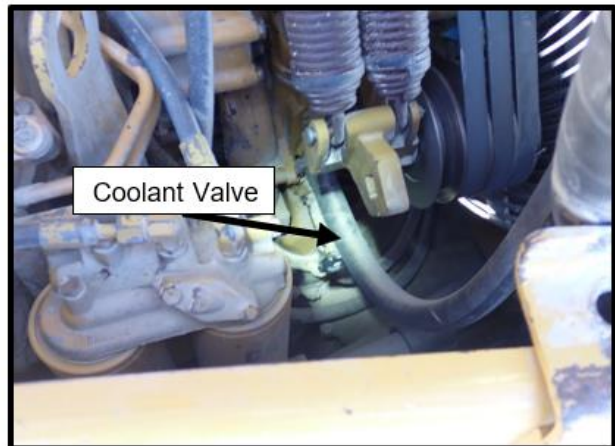
EMERGENCY AWARENESS BULLETIN No. 4 – 2026

Kentucky Division of Mine Safety EAB No. 4 – Machinery

On Monday, June 15th, 2026, a 61-year-old equipment operator with approximately 18 years of mining experience was injured while working at a surface mine in the Hazard Branch.

The miner injured his hand while reaching into the motor compartment to turn on the coolant valve, causing it to enter the path of the engine's running belt-and-pulley system. This resulted in partial amputations of his ring and pinky fingers.

The Accident Scene



Recommendations

1. **Shut down and secure equipment** — Turn off all power sources and block machinery against motion before performing any maintenance or repair work.
2. **Avoid pinch-points** — Train miners to recognize, evaluate, and avoid pinch-points. Never place any part of your body where it could be caught, pinched, or pulled into moving machine components.
3. **Follow manufacturer procedures** — Review and comply with the equipment manufacturer's recommended safe work practices.