

COULD THIS HAVE BEEN YOU?

Quarry supervisor killed by machine part

A rock quarry supervisor died when he was hit by a half-ton machine part while servicing a crushing machine.

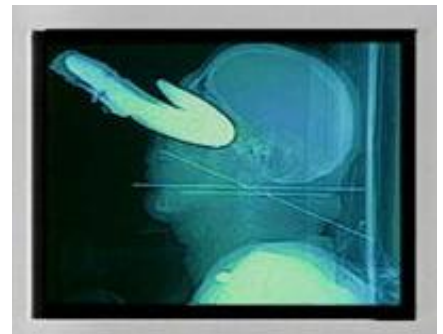
He and two workers were working on a weekend when the quarry was shut down. They were adjusting a rock crusher, a large machine that produced gravel by crushing rocks which had been blasted from the quarry.

They were in the process of taking off a retaining clamp and moving a large metal shim that determined the size of the crushed rock the machine produced. The victim was standing under the shim assembly when the bolts were removed. The 1000-pound (454 kilogram) machine part hit him in the head, killing him instantly.

Such fatalities can be prevented by using written procedures for servicing machinery and conducting a job hazard analysis of each work activity.

Construction Accident Blinds Man

A Texas man is a lucky to be alive after a construction accident involving a large hook. The hook was attached to a backhoe when it hit Gail Cook in the left temple and eye back in December. X-rays show how it lodged in Cook's head, stopping within millimeters of his brain. Surgeons in San Antonio were able to remove the hook. But both optic nerves were severed. The accident has left Cook blind, but also thankful to be alive.



Construction boss decapitated by boom

A construction supervisor was decapitated when he was struck by a boom from a crane.

He was handling the tagline on a crane-connected load which was being lowered into a subway construction area. The crane did not have outriggers in place for stability.

As the load was being lowered, it got caught on a ledge out of the operator's sight. When the load stopped moving downward, the operator assumed it had reached the lower level destination. He continued to lower the load line so it could be disconnected. The load then fell from the ledge. The sudden impact caused the crane to tip over, and the boom struck the victim as it fell.

If you work around cranes, be aware the proper placement of outriggers helps ensure your safety. If you are tagging a crane load, keep an eye on the positions of both the crane and the load.