



A publication of the
Oregon Independent Aggregate Association
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Oregon Independent Aggregate Association Newsletter

March 2023

Conveyors and conveyor systems are an important part of all our operations and have inherent dangers when in motion. Serious and fatal accidents can occur when working near, inspecting, adjusting or maintaining conveyor belts. MSHA has available one of their safety videos titled “conveyor safety in mining”. This is a youtube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEwFZHVLsso>) which can be found on line and this video is an excellent tool and topic for your next tailgate safety meeting. MSHA also provides these tips to help miners stay safe around miners. Think Safety. Please see the attached article on conveyor entanglement hazards – best practices.

Bill Leavens
Board of Directors

Conveyor Entanglement Hazards - Best Practices

Moving Conveyor Belts –

Faster Than You and Unforgiving

- A typical conveyor belt travels about **300 feet** per minute.
- This means the belt is moving at **five feet** per second.
- So, a moving conveyor belt will draw your tools, your loose-fitting clothing, your hand, or your arm **five feet** into a pinch point before you can react.
- **In less than a second**, a conveyor can grab you, pull you in, and not let go.

Equipment Guards Are There for a Purpose

- Keep guards securely in place when conveyors are operating or energized.
- Never reach around or through a guard.

Entanglement Incidents Are Life Altering and Frequently Fatal – Follow These Rules

- Never perform work on a moving conveyor belt. Don't let others do so.
- Never clean or otherwise contact idlers, head, tail, bend or take-up pulleys during conveyor operation.
- Understand that shoveling material onto a moving belt presents a risk.
 - » Establish a safe shovel point;
 - » Always shovel in the direction of belt travel;
 - » Use shovels without a "D" grip (plain, smooth handle); and
 - » Erect a barrier that prevents the shovel from reaching the edge of the belt, but allows material to pass over or through.
- Ensure that conveyor power is disconnected **before** performing maintenance or repairs.
- Follow proper Lock-Out, Tag-Out, Try-Out (LOTOTO) procedures. If you don't know what they are . . . **ASK!**
- Never cross under or over a conveyor unless at a designated and protected point.
- Do not touch, climb, walk or ride on a moving conveyor belt.
- Keep tools, clothing, body parts, and long hair away from moving conveyor belts.
- Know the location of emergency shut-off devices for conveyors and how to use them.
- Test emergency shut-off devices frequently.



Highwall - Safety Alert

PDF Version:

 [Highwall-Safety-Alert.pdf](#) (337.21 KB)

Since CY 2012, falling rocks and materials from hazardous highwalls have resulted in 9 mining fatalities and 27 serious injuries.



A miner was fatally injured at a surface coal mine while operating a front-end loader to remove shot rock near the base of a 63 ft. highwall.



A miner was severely injured while working near the base of an approximate 65 ft. highwall. The miner was struck by loose, fractured and overhanging rocks.

Best Practices

- **Develop and follow a plan** for the safe control of all highwalls where miners work and travel in close proximity to the highwall.
- **Train miners to recognize highwall hazards.**
- **Conduct highwall examinations** and assure hazards (loose rocks, overhangs, trees, etc.) are taken down or supported prior to work or travel near the highwall. Examine more frequently after rain, freezing and thawing.
- **Scale highwalls** to eliminate hazards, e.g. loose rocks or overhangs. Perform scaling from a position that will not expose miners to injury. Until hazards are corrected, place warning signs or barricades to prevent entry.

- **Restrict highwall height** to allow available equipment to safely scale the highwall. If benching is necessary, provide adequate bench width based on the type of equipment used for routine clearing or scaling operations.
- **Develop blasting plans** and use proper blasting techniques. Examine highwalls after blasting.
- **Remove trees, vegetation, and unconsolidated material** a safe distance from the top edge of highwalls.
- **Never park equipment, perform maintenance or store materials beneath highwalls.**
- **Use diversion ditches or slope the ground** so that surface runoff drains away from highwalls.

[Forms](#)[Fatality Database](#)[Support & Resources](#)[Frequently Asked Questions](#)



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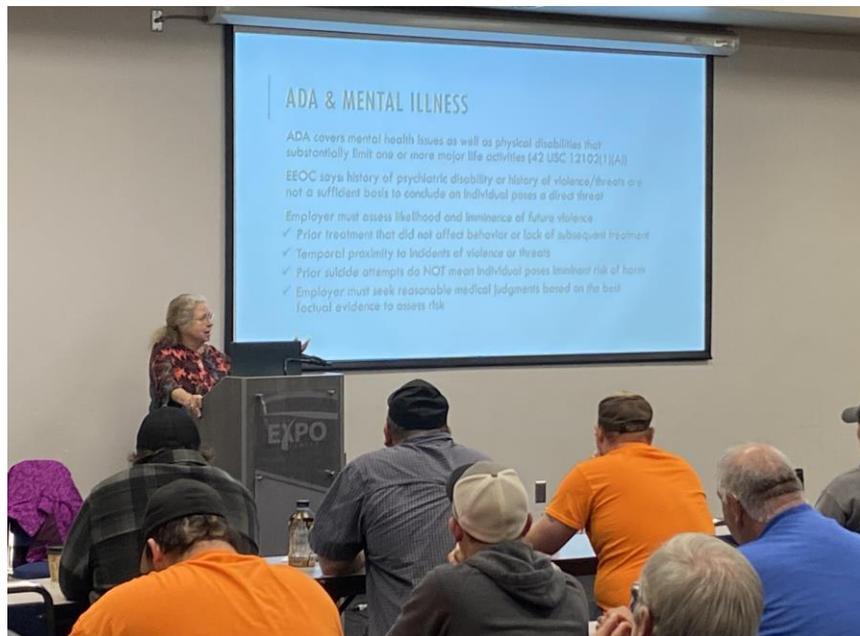
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OIAA presented another successful Part 46 training. We held classes in both Albany, Oregon and Roseburg, Oregon. Watch our summer newsletters for 2024 training dates.



Adele Abrams this year's trainer

Attention OIAA member contacts

Our CPA prefers to email membership renewal invoices. Some of them are bouncing back. Please update the contact for your company that should be receiving these invoices.

Is there someone in your company that you would like to receive this newsletter? Please send information to memberreply@oregonaggregate.com

Newsletter and Training Notification email address updates

These past few years have brought many changes to some of our member companies. If you have had a change in personnel or added new personnel that you wish to receive this newsletter and information regarding our annual training please contact our secretary Kellie Ramar @ memberreply@oraggregate.com

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**Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 10th 2023
KPD office conference room in Springfield, Oregon**

memberreply@oraggregate.com

Scholarship applications for our June 2023 Graduates will be available in May of 2023.