

# Hazard Alert



## Serious arm injury sustained while clearing debris near drill blast hole

A worker was seriously injured while cleaning dirt and debris from around a drill blast-hole. The worker's arm was pinned by the drill's dust collector after accidental contact was made with the drill controls. Drilling activities had been stopped but the drill was not completely shut down while cleaning was taking place.

Failure to shut off the primary power supply or to follow lock and tag procedures prior to cleaning or maintaining a machine can result in serious or fatal injuries from unintentional equipment movement.

Be aware of the requirements for heavy equipment operation including:

- Only competent, qualified persons operate mobile equipment and machines.
- Conduct regular pre-use inspections of equipment to identify and correct deficiencies.
- Follow safe work procedures, practices and manufactures recommendations for stopping equipment and exiting/entering equipment.

### What the Legislation Says:

*The Northwest Territories Occupational Health and Safety Regulations,*

**Section 141.states:**

An employer or supplier shall ensure that machines or other equipment under this Part are constructed, repaired, inspected, tested, maintained and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications or an approved standard.

**Section 143. (1) states:**

If reasonably possible, an employer or supplier shall ensure that operating controls on a machine

- (a) are located within easy reach of the operator; and
- (b) cannot be activated by accidental contact.

**Section 144. (1) states:**

An employer shall not require or permit a worker to leave unattended or in a suspended position any machine or any part of a machine unless the machine or part has been

- (a) immobilized and secured against accidental movement; or

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(b) enclosed by a safeguard to prevent access by any other worker to the machine or part.

**The Northwest Territories Mining Safety Regulations:**

**10.21 (1)** The manager shall develop a lock-out procedure for each mechanical or electrical equipment system, and the procedure shall  
(b) address the sources of all hazards that may be presented when a person is working on the equipment or system; and (c) specify, before the work starts, how the equipment or system is to be checked to verify that all hazards have been neutralized and that the equipment or system is safe to work on.

**10.21 (5)** Where the equipment or system to be worked on is powered by a source other than electricity, the primary power supply to the power source shall be shut off, locked out and tagged.

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