

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Due to an engine overheating alarm a worker exited the cab and stepped down onto the tracks to open the side engine access cover to check the turbine.

A malfunctioning ripper hydraulic control lever caused the hydraulic system to overheat. This defect was known by the worker but they did not report or document the issue on the pre-use inspection.

While holding the access cover with both hands, the worker had to back up to allow the cover to open. The access cover fell off its hinges, causing the worker to lose balance, and fall onto the tracks. The worker then slid down the slope of the tracks head first.

The incident resulted in the worker injuring his left arm, ribs and 2 lacerations to his right knee. The lacerations required a total of 8 stitches to close.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Review equipment pre-use inspection system with workers, focusing on testing of equipment before use and immediately reporting defects.
- Inspect and possibly modify all engine access cover hinges so that the cover will not come off the hinges when opened.
- Install a smaller inspection door on the cover so that operators can conduct pre-trip inspections without having to open the larger cover.
- Remind operators to maintain 3-point contact when opening the engine access covers (use handrail).

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Documenting and reporting equipment defects helps to get equipment repaired in a timely manner.

