

DMM Safety Alert:

Mechanic/Driller Fatally Injured

On September 21, 2016, a 52-year-old contractor mechanic/driller with 27 years of mining experience was fatally injured. The miner was using a pipe wrench to loosen a nut on the rotary head of an Ingersoll Rand T4BH drill. He was standing on the deck operating the drill controls from outside the cab when the pipe wrench struck him in the abdomen causing severe injuries. The miner tried to climb off the drill rig using a step ladder, but fell and struck his head. Other mine personnel saw the miner fall and called 911 after determining the severity of his injuries. Local EMS personnel transported the injured miner to a local hospital and he was later air-lifted to another hospital for surgery. The victim died during surgery as a result of blunt force trauma caused by the pipe wrench.

To prevent this type of accident from occurring, the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining recommends:

- Mine operators and independent contractors should establish safe procedures for performing all types of work. All mine personnel and contractor personnel should be trained in proper procedures for the work assigned.
- Proper tools and procedures should be used when performing tasks.
- Equipment manufacturer recommendations should be followed when performing maintenance or repairs on equipment.
- When performing maintenance or repairs to equipment, make sure the power is off and the equipment is blocked against motion, except when motion is necessary to make adjustments.



A drill similar to the one involved in this accident