

SPECIAL TYRE HAZARD ALERT

A 49-year old maintenance man with 22 years mining experience was fatally injured while inflating a loader tyre. The victim was bending over to remove the air connection from the stem when the tyre wall exploded, throwing him about 3 metres. The tyre was cracked by weathering, which allowed moisture to corrode and weaken the steel belting.

A 20-year old contractor mechanic with 5 weeks mining experience was fatally injured while lubricating transmission shift cables. A repaired section of the tyre failed. The mechanic was thrown 8 metres by the force of the explosion. The blowout occurred where a 55mm x 55mm section has been replaced 6 months prior to the accident.

A 34-year old service mechanic with 5 years experience was fatally injured while removing a tyre from a front-end loader. The victim was cutting lug bolts with a torch and the tyre had not been deflated, when the bolts holding the rim together were severed, the pieces separated with explosive force striking the victim on the head and chest.

A 39-year old maintenance man with 8 years mining experience was fatally injured when he used a cutting torch to remove a brake drum from a rim. The tyre had not been deflated prior to the accident and it exploded. This accident also seriously injured two co-workers.

Best Practices:

- NEVER CUT OR WELD ON THE RIM OF AN INFLATED TYRE, EXCESSIVE HEAT CAN CAUSE TYRES TO EXPLODE.
- ALWAYS DEFLATE TYRES, REMOVE THE VALVE CORE, AND INSURE THAT THE VALVE STEM IS CLEAR BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY MAINTENANCE OR REPAIRS ON TYRES.
- A STAND-OFF INFLATION DEVICE OR A CAGE SHOULD BE USED WHILE INFLATING TYRES.
- DETERIORATED AND DEFECTIVE TYRES OR RIMS SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM SERVICE.