



# Fatality Alert



**MINE FATALITY** – On May 2, 2020, a miner entered a dredged sand and gravel bin through a lower access hatch to clear an obstruction. The miner was clearing the blockage with a bar when the material inside the bin fell and engulfed him.



## Best Practices

1. **Lock-out, tag-out.** Never enter a bin until the supply and discharge equipment is locked out.
2. **Train miners to recognize and safely remove all potential hazards** before beginning work and when clearing blocked hoppers.
3. **Equip bins with mechanical devices such as vibrating shakers or air cannons** to loosen blockages, or provide other effective means of handling material so miners are not exposed to entrapment hazards by falling or sliding material.
4. **Follow manufacturer recommendations** for clearing out blockages.
5. **Establish and discuss policies and procedures** for safely clearing bins.
6. **Install a heavy screen (grizzly)** to control the size of the material and prevent clogging.

This is the 7th fatality reported in 2020, and the second classified as “Handling Material.”

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The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data only and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.