

## An assistant driller gets his hand caught between the drill's rotating head and its water hose

Around 4:15 in the afternoon, a driller and his assistant were busy retrieving the inner tube of the drill's descending hole. The assistant connects the water hose to the loading chamber with a quick release clamp, but at the same time, the driller accidentally turns on the drill which in turn raises the drill's rotating head. His assistant's hand is caught between the rotating head and the water hose that is still connected, seriously injuring himself.

### Serious Accident

**Date:** January 31<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
**Category:** Underground mine  
**Activity:** Diamond drilling  
**Job:** Assistant driller

### Causes of the Accident

- The driller accidentally turns on the drill head as his assistant has his hand in a pinch point.
- The drill's design doesn't allow the operator to see the position of the assistant's hands.
- The design of the drill rig allows the rotating head to come in contact with the loading chamber's water hose.



### Preventative Measures for the Employer

- Repositioning the drill's control panel so the operator can see his assistant at all times during operation.
- Weld a metal part on the loading chamber to increase its dimension in order to maintain a distance of at least 25 cm (10") between the water hose and the drill head.
- Install a deadweight switch at approximately 2 meters (6') from the drill so that once released by the assistant driller, the hydraulic power will cut off and prevent all unexpected movements.
- Apply the above corrective measures to all of the company's drilling sites.

## Additional Information

### Regulations

- Règlement sur la santé et la sécurité du travail (RSST), Section XXI *Machines*
  - *Online or purchased through* [www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca)

### Other documents

- Excellence in Health and Safety e-toolkit (EHS) Version-01.2009 *Association canadienne des prospecteurs et entrepreneurs (ACPE) / The Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC)*  
Chapter 20.6.3.2 Exposed Machine Parts
  - *Online at* <http://www.pdac.ca/programs/e3-plus/toolkits/health-and-safety>

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*To publish an ACCIDENT ALERT for other mines, contact*

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