

Potential Fatal Event: Mechanic Struck with Metal Wedge

Preliminary Incident Details	
Operation	Morenci
Date / Time	July 23, 2024 / 9 a.m.
Event Type	Injury – Lost Time
Summary	Mechanics were replacing a bit sub on a worn drill pipe. Metal wedges were used to separate the pipe. As the drill operator turned the breakout wrench on the pipe, a metal wedge, approximately three pounds, popped out of place and struck a mechanic on the chin. The wedge landed approximately 51 feet from the drill.
Risk Category	Actionable – Significant (3) Likely (3)
Findings / Missing Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Diagnostic mechanic had two years of experience.Struck mechanic was an apprentice 1, in the role for nine months.Failure to segregate the employee from fatal energy. No barricading or guard to control energy.Improper tool (steel wedges) was used to secure the stuck drill pipe.
Applicable Policies / Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Operation manual for removing stabilizer.
Employee Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Employee underwent surgery, was discharged and is expected to recover.
Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rassie Ras, Manager-Health and SafetyGary Anderson, Manager-Mine Maintenance

Photos / Links



Position where steel wedge was installed and later dislodged.



Top view where steel wedge was installed and later dislodged.



Position where the mechanic was standing at the time of the event.



Steel wedge (3 lbs) landed 51ft from the drill.