

# ACTIONABLE LESSONS LEARNED: Fallen Idler



## Falling Objects

### Incident Overview

Morenci, March 11, 2024

A contractor crew was cleaning buildup underneath the head end of a conveyor near the transfer tower. While on their lunch break and stationed across the street, the crew witnessed a return idler that fell 20 feet down from the conveyor. The idler landed close to the crew's working area. The conveyor was running, the idler was mounted and in use at the time of the event.



## Causal Factors

- Contractors were tasked by Freeport supervision to clean under a running conveyor when overhead hazards were not effectively controlled.

## Site Specific Actions



- Elimination** – Perform gap analysis on Freeport Material Handling Conveyance Handling policy and align Morenci Production Standard 2.2 (Conveyor Safety).
  - Identify and correct any deviations from the policy and submit recommendations for improvement.
  - Hold accountability conversations with leadership at all levels.
  - Clarify expectations that leaders are responsible for verifying that employees and contractors understand and are working within policy.



- Engineering** – Identify and correct gaps in idler inspection and planning processes.
  - Implement planned component replacement for idlers in areas with high employee exposure.
  - Evaluate and test engineering options that may extend idler life and assist with failure identification.



- Administrative** – Improve Freeport engagement with contractor work and support. Develop or modify processes to help ensure Freeport engagement with contractors prior to work starting.



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### Mill Employees

- Maintain good housekeeping under conveyor belts to avoid build up.
- Do thorough inspections on all idlers to make sure you identify any that are damaged and could become a hazard.
- Employees should not work under moving conveyors, follow applicable procedures and policy to prevent injury when working around or under conveyors.



### Mill Leadership

- Maintain good housekeeping in your work areas.
- Visit work areas on a regular basis to help ensure a safe work environment for all employees.
- Stop the job if you see an unsafe act or condition.
- Hold your employees accountable when expectations are not being met.
- Support contractors working on site by verifying they have the proper training. Make sure they are aware and understand Freeport policy requirements.



### All of Us

- Avoid traveling underneath moving conveyor belts. If travel is allowed, verify all controls are in place and risks have been mitigated.
- Keep our work areas clean – a clean area is a safe area.
- Always perform a risk analysis in our work areas. If it is not safe to work, stop the job.



Falling Objects

# Actionable Event: Fallen Idler

## Preliminary Incident Details

<b>Operation</b>	Morenci
<b>Date / Time</b>	March 11, 2024 / 1:15 p.m.
<b>Event Type</b>	Near Miss
<b>Summary</b>	A contractor crew was cleaning buildup underneath the head end of a conveyor near the transfer tower. While on their lunch break and stationed across the street, the crew witnessed a return idler that fell 20 feet down from the conveyor. The idler landed close to the crew's working area. The conveyor was running, the idler was mounted and in use at the time of the event.
<b>Risk Category</b>	Actionable – Significant (3) Likely (3)
<b>Findings / Missing Controls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conveyor was left on while unattended</li> <li>• Need to set up segregation or turn off belt while unattended</li> <li>• No baskets or guarding were used under the idler</li> </ul>
<b>Applicable Policies / Procedures</b>	N/A
<b>Employee Condition</b>	No injuries
<b>Contact</b>	Corina Rodriguez- Senior Supervisor-Health and Safety

## Photos / Links



*Location where idler fell*



*Worn idler that fell from conveyor*



*Idler fell from section of conveyor circled in yellow*