Improper Isolation of a Conveyor

WHAT HAPPENED

Contractors had been tasked to replace a conveyor on a stone feeder under a surge p
This required an authorised employee to complete the isolation and permit, in accorda
with the site isolation procedure for this task. A conveyor that should have been isolate
not, and the contractors were later observed working off this conveyor.

The contractor did raise concern regarding the isolation for this conveyor belt at the en
the first day, when leaving site, they had observed no lock on the isolation point, which
a significant distance from the feeder they had been working on. The contractor raised
concern the following morning with the site, and later saw a lock on the isolation point,
assumed it was safe to continue with the task. The isolation was eventually checked a
confirmed to be inadequate and the task was stopped on the third day.

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

- The isolation procedures were not followed, leaving contractors to work unsupervised
unsafe environment.

- The contractors' risk assessment and safe system of work had not been reviewed by
site.

- The contractor did not seek confirmation that the lock they saw meant that the isolati
was complete, they assumed it was.

- It took too long for the site to react to the concern about the isolation raised by the
contractor.

- The process for training and validation was not clear and robust enough.

- There is a concern that -outsourced jobs for regular contractors are potentially not
receiving the same rigorous controls that the larger, major jobs do

Plant & Site Managers must ensure that:
- All contractors working on a site have a nominated competent employee, whose prin
responsibilities are to ensure that; the contractor has received a site induction specific
work they will be undertaking, including the requirement for isolation

- The contractors' risk assessment and safe system of work/method statement are
reviewed, and then challenged if necessary

- All required permits are completed before work is started by the contractor

- The work is monitored to ensure that it is being done safely and in accordance with tl
agreed method.

- This incident is used to remind all line managers and supervisors of the importance o taking any safety concern raised by an employee or contractor seriously and respondi timely manner appropriate to the significance of the concern raised.

- The ongoing competency of authorised personnel on site is routinely checked and refresher training provided if required.

SAFEQUARRY EDITOR'S NOTE
+ Very often conveyor belt incidents occur because of a failure to identify the energy source(s),a failure to isolate the energy source(s), a failure to use a ‘Lockout Tagout procedure and a failure to test to prove that equipment is effectively isolated.

+Work of this nature could be a focus for a ‘visible felt leadership’ conversation.

+A range of good practice materials are available on safequarry including
Short videos on Isolation: Lockout Tagout
http://www.safequarry.com/toolbox/CEMEXsuiteofvisualaidsonisolationproceduresLO

LOCATION:	**OTHER**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**MAINTENANCE & HOUSEKEEPING**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**18/12/2014 10:06:47**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**N/A**	**INCIDENT No:**	**00393**