

# Unblocking Mobile Crushers and Screens

## WHAT HAPPENED

In response to a recent industry fatality in a competitor company and pending further information from the HSE investigation; a major company has issued the following guidance to its sites that operate mobile crushers and screens.

## LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

- Unblocking crushers or screens must not be undertaken until a risk assessment has been completed.
- Unblocking of any crusher should normally be via a dedicated hydraulic breaker. Where a dedicated breaker is not available the use of a hydraulic excavator correctly fitted out for use with a breaker should be used.
- If any situation arises where the above methods prove unsuccessful operations should be suspended, full risk assessment, method of work and permit to work procedures should be put in place to safely manage further activities to unblock the crusher.
- Blockages in a crusher or screen should never be removed using a hydraulic excavator and chains. There are many inherent dangers associated with this practice and it is therefore forbidden on all sites.
- Home made attachments should never be employed to prod or poke obstructed crushers or screens.

---

**LOCATION:**  
**ACTIVITY:**  
**SUB ACTIVITY:**

**COMPANY-WIDE**  
**MAINTENANCE & HOUSEKEEPING**  
**N/A**

**ALERT STATUS:**  
**DATE ISSUED:**  
**INCIDENT No:**

**Normal**  
**18/08/2011**  
**00300**