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Subject: Green Alert: Job Safety Analysis Notebook

Title: Near Miss Could Have Caused Significant Personnel Injury

Identifier: 1999-ALO-WID-02

Lessons Learned Statement: The inherent dangers of routine work can be overlooked, even in an environment where excellence is the standard practice.

DISCUSSION OF ACTIVITIES: A WIPP employee, part of an inexperienced work crew, was struck on the shoulder by a cable bundle that fell from the roof of the underground. The employee was not severely injured.

ANALYSIS: The employee was part of a three-man crew engaged in temporarily relocating a suspended cable bundle, a task which had not been adequately planned and briefed. The crew was transferring the cables from a permanent cable hanger system to a set of temporarily installed hangers. One of the temporary hangers failed, causing other hangers to fail, and the cables fell sequentially until approximately 200 linear feet of cable fell to the floor.

Commercially available wire hanger clips are used for permanent cable installation. These clips are capable of holding 110 lbs. with both clip hooks being used as the cable support, and are placed at 4-foot intervals when installed. The wire hanger clips for the temporary cable move were attached to available roof bolt plates. In addition to placing the clips 5 to 10 feet apart due to availability of roof bolt plates, the small hole in the plate allowed only one of the two clip hooks to be attached to the plate. This method of hanging the cable bundle effectively reduced the load capacity of the clip to 60 lbs. With the cable bundle weighing approximately 20 lbs. per linear foot, the load capacity of the clip was exceeded.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: The corrective actions for this and any other task in which inexperienced personnel are performing routine functions that can be hazardous was to develop a specific job safety briefing sheet for future tasks. The briefing sheet will identify hazards and hazards mitigation methods. Additionally, a "Job Safety Analysis" notebook for routine tasks is to be implemented by management. The notebook will be used for pre-job briefings for routine tasks that are frequently performed.

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