

## Just trying to help

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A quarry worker was using a truck mounted crane to lift a crusher screw into place when the crane truck tipped, pinning the worker between the cab of the truck and a conveyor belt. The worker suffered serious injuries, requiring surgery and 6 to 12 months of therapy.

Despite having completed this job on numerous occasions using, and following, the safe work procedure for the task, the worker decided on this occasion to speed up the process by using a truck mounted crane that was not rated for the lift.

Sadly, too many workers are injured or killed “trying to help “without identifying the hazards associated with the work, assessing the risks of injury, and putting appropriate controls in place to reduce harm.

We do not know what human factors are at play when people make poor decisions that ultimately cause harm to themselves or others, however we can do the following things to raise awareness and give our workers the tools they need to help with good decision making:

- **engage with your workers to identify hazards, and particularly fatal hazards, assess the risk of your workers being harmed by these hazards, and implement critical controls to eliminate the risk of a fatality or serious injury**
- **train workers in safe operating procedures and regularly conduct refresher training to ensure competence is maintained**
- **supervise workers, and conduct regular workplace inspections, to ensure safe operating procedures are being followed and that controls are effective**
- **encourage workers to report any situation where they feel that they, or other workers, may not be fit for work. This may include illness, problems not related to work, fatigue, and other human factors**
- **Share safety alerts with workers and talk through the learnings.**

Let’s work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

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