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TOOL BOX TALK - ASPHALT PLANT SAFETY February 20, 2023

This Tool box Talk has been shared a few times over the years. With the winter maintenance starting up on the plants I thought it would be a good time to share it again. This Tool box Talk shows how important it is to know where everyone is located when working at the plants and how important a Lock Out /Tag Out policy is.

It was a little past seven o'clock in the morning. A long line of trucks waited at the plant when the superintendent drove up. Numerous attempts to contact the plant by radio had failed. If someone had asked him, the superintendent would have admitted he was pretty steamed when he pulled into the yard and the plant wasn't running. This particular asphalt plant operator had been late on several other occasions, causing expensive delays.

The superintendent climbed the stairs to the batch plant's elevated control house. It was empty. A trip into the switch room confirmed that none of the starter circuit breakers were tripped and locked out. Out in the stockpile area he could see the loader working the piles, so he knew the loader man was ready to go. The superintendent was a former plant operator, he knew that time was money. He decided to get the plant running himself. A split second after starting the pug-mill the superintendent knew his mistake. The pug mill access door was open. The asphalt plant operator, with less than six months on the job, was in the pug tightening a loose shank. He was killed with the flick of a switch. He was 22 years old, with a wife, two kids and a long life out in front of him. The devastated superintendent took early retirement.

LOCK OUT/TAG OUT - LOOK OUT FOR YOUR FELLOW WORKERS!

HR/Safety Meetings February 16th, March 2nd, March 9th

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