

Worker Pinned Inside Mixer

Incident Date: January 30, 2018 / Location: Cardston, AB / Industry: Feed Manufacturing



AI Teaching Illustration. Cutaway shows the internal pinch zone and separate controls. It is not an actual opening; equipment and worker positions are schematic.

What Happened

A plant manager and assistant were making cattle mineral supplements. Product mixed with molasses repeatedly caked inside the hopper and stalled its ribbon agitator. Throughout the shift, they entered the mixer to scrape away material, then resumed production.

Later, the assistant worked through the start-up sequence from a separate control room. The plant manager had entered the hopper again. When the assistant switched on the mixer, the ribbon rotated and pinned the manager against the inside wall. The assistant heard belts squealing, stopped the mixer and went to investigate. Emergency services were called, but the worker had suffered fatal injuries.

Why This Became Fatal

The mixer could start while a person was inside its danger zone. A stopped or stalled machine still has hazardous energy. Safe entry requires isolation, personal locks, control of stored energy and verification that movement cannot occur—not reliance on a control switch or assumptions about another person's location.

NEVER FORGET.

LET THEIR STORY PREVENT RECURRENCE.

What Safe Looks Like

Before entry, isolate every energy source and verify that movement is prevented.



1 Isolate and Lock

Control mixer, feed and discharge energy with personal locks.

2 Verify Before Entry

Test isolation and control stored energy by the approved method.

3 Plan Entry and Rescue

Assess confined-space hazards, authorization, communication and rescue before anyone enters.

AI Teaching Illustration. Pre-entry verification; depicted isolation points are conceptual. **LSR links:** Energy Isolation; Confined Space assessment.

Investigation Outcome

Charges were laid on December 5, 2019. On **March 18, 2021, the court acquitted Taurus Natural of all charges.** This case must not be presented as an employer conviction. The investigation was completed on March 16, 2022. The report records no supervisor conviction.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 Where do we enter or reach into equipment to clear repeated blockages?
- 2 Could another person restart it from a separate control station?
- 3 How does each exposed worker verify and retain control of the isolation?
- 4 Would you stop or refuse entry without verified isolation and an entry/rescue plan?

SAFETY COMES FIRST.

Your Right to Refuse – Alberta. You may refuse work you reasonably believe presents an undue hazard: a serious and immediate threat. Promptly report the refusal and reasons to your employer or supervisor. They must investigate. Contact Alberta OHS if unresolved. Take reasonable care not to endanger others. You are protected from reprisal.

Sources: [Alberta OHS investigation F-OHS-138034-57996](#), pp. 2-11; summary completed March 16, 2022. [Alberta refusal guidance](#). Prepared October 19, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach.

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