

# Asphalt Plant Trainee Crushed In Conveyor



Trevor\* was 24 years old when he died in an unguarded conveyor at an asphalt plant, where investigators concluded that several safety procedures could have prevented his death.

## WHAT HAPPENED

Trevor was a trainee who, along with a co-worker, was instructed to assist in the recalibration of a conveyor by clearing it of any remaining asphalt and running aggregate through it. While the conveyor was operating, Trevor climbed onto a support beam (directly above an unguarded opening of the conveyor) to operate a handle controlling a gate in the conveyor chute.

The co-worker told Trevor to “get down from there,” but the young man continued to operate the handle. He lost his balance and fell feet first into the conveyor. The co-worker grabbed Trevor’s arm but could not prevent him from being dragged into a narrow aperture of the conveyor and being crushed.

## WORKERS TAKE HEED

Employees should follow these recommendations to prevent similar deaths when working around conveyors and other machines:

- Don’t work with machinery that has exposed moving parts. Report lack of guarding to your supervisor.
- Make sure you know where all stop buttons are located so you can deactivate a machine quickly.
- Do not climb or stand on machinery. Use elevated work platforms to activate out-of-reach handles or switches.
- Ensure you have been trained to identify and control the hazards associated with your job, and ask that a job safety analysis be conducted before you begin a hazardous task.
- Regularly inspect machinery before each use. You might find a problem that could lead to a serious injury

*\* The names aren’t real, but the incidents are. These accounts are based on actual fatality investigations.*