

MNMM Fatal 2004-11

- Falling, Sliding Material Accident
- June 19, 2004 (Oregon)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Line Maintenance Man
- 33 years old
- 3 years experience

Overview

- A three man crew was attempting to unplug material at the discharge chute below a 30-ton hopper. The victim entered the hopper from the top without wearing a secured safety harness and lanyard when the material suddenly gave way and engulfed him.

Transfer hopper where accident occurred



View from the top of hopper where feed dumps in



Bin discharge opening to conveyor belt



Why Did Accident Occur?

Safe work procedures had not been established for unplugging material from the transfer hopper. Victim entered the hopper from the top without wearing a safety harness and lanyard securely anchored.

Causal Factors

- Management should develop procedures requiring miners to wear a safety harness and lanyard securely attached when working in the transfer hopper.
- The electrical circuit supplying power to the field conveyors was not de-energized, locked out, and tagged out prior to entering the transfer hopper.
- A risk assessment was not conducted with the crew before work began to unplug the transfer hopper.

Best Practices

- Evaluate a task before performing work.
- Establish and follow safe job procedures that mitigate hazards when unplugging discharge chutes.
- Position yourself in a safe location where you are not exposed to hazards.
- Never enter a location where unexpected or unanticipated sliding material could entrap you.
- Close supply and discharge points and wear a safety harness and lanyard, which is securely anchored, prior to entering bins, hoppers, tanks, or silos.