

MNMM Fatal 2004-18

- Machinery
- September 16, 2004 (North Carolina)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Mechanic
- 35 years old
- 12 years experience

Overview

- The victim was fatally injured when the forklift he was repairing fell on him. The jack that was holding up the machine slipped while he was positioned under the forklift to change a starter.



09.21.2004

Why Did Accident Occur?

- The accident occurred because the forklift had not been blocked or mechanically secured to prevent it from falling. The hydraulic jack used to raise the forklift shifted, causing the forklift to fall. A risk assessment was not conducted before starting this task. No steps were taken to identify possible hazards. Controls were not implemented to eliminate the risks involved with working underneath the raised forklift.



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Causal Factors

- Policies, standards and controls were inadequate and failed to implement safe work procedures to ensure miners were protected from hazards when performing maintenance on forklifts. Personal performing this work were not monitored periodically to ensure the task was completed according to manufacturer's guidelines.

Causal Factors

- Maintenance policies and standards were deficient and failed to ensure the appropriate tools or equipment were provided and used to complete the repair task. The jack available at the mine site was not compatible with the equipment being lifted. Blocking material had not been used to support the raised frame of the forklift.

Best Practices

- Conduct a Risk Assessment evaluating all tasks and identifying potential hazards before performing maintenance work.
- Use a lifting device that is compatible with the load being lifted and block equipment against hazardous motion before starting any repairs.
- Take additional care and caution when working underneath equipment. Never work under a load that is only supported with a jack.