

MNMM Fatal 2004-22-23

- Falling Material
- December 5, 2004 (Nevada)
- Copper
- Mechanic - 31 years old - 11 years experience
- Welder - 23 years old - 3 years experience

Overview

- The victims were changing the bolts on the latching mechanism insert on the bucket (dipper) of a loading shovel. They were working between the dipper door and the dipper when the weld on a steel support that was blocking the dipper door failed, causing the door to close and strike them.



Why Did Accident Occur?

- The accident occurred because safe work procedures had not been established for blocking the shovel dipper door.

Bucket (Dipper) Assembly for the Electric Shovel

Causal Factors

- A risk assessment to identify possible hazards and establish safe procedures was not conducted with the crew prior to performing the task of changing the bolts on the shovel dipper latching mechanism.

Causal Factors

- Management policies, standards, and controls were inadequate. Procedures had not been established to ensure miners were protected while working to repair the door latching mechanism. The dipper door was not properly blocked against motion to prevent the door from closing.

Best Practices

- Before any work begins, miners should conduct a Risk Assessment to evaluate all tasks to identify and correct potential hazards, ensuring that the task can be safely performed.
- Before working under a raised bucket door, ensure that the material used for blocking against hazardous motion is adequate and properly installed.

Best Practices

- Examine work areas during the shift for hazards that may be created as a result of the work being performed.
- Consult equipment manufacturers for guidance before repairs begin.