

# MNMM Fatal 2004-27

- Other (Drowning)
- December 13, 2004 (Texas)
- Limestone
- Laborer – 56 years old – 4 years experience

# Overview

- The victim fell into a 5-foot high concrete decanting structure and drowned. The decanting structure contained about 4 feet of sand and water. He was found floating near the overhead valve that directed the plant discharge water that was flowing into the decanting structure.

**Decanting Structure**



# Why Did Accident Occur?

- The accident occurred because safe operating procedures were not established to ensure that persons were protected from hazards while working over and around decanting structures. Life jackets were not provided for persons who performed tasks at the decanting structures.

# Causal Factor

- Management policies and administrative controls were inadequate. Safe operating procedures were not established to ensure persons were protected from the hazard of falling into water at the decanting structures.

# Best Practices

- Ensure that flotation devices are provided and worn by miners where there is a danger of falling into water.
- Before beginning work, miners should discuss the job tasks, identify all possible hazards, and ensure that steps are taken to safely perform the task (risk analysis).