



Fatality #25 - December 09, 2004
Machinery - TX - Alumina
Sherwin Alumina Company - Sherwin Alumina Company

METAL/NONMETAL MINE FATALITY - On December 9, 2004, a 46-year-old contracted laborer, with 21/2 years mining experience, was fatally injured at an alumina operation. The victim was attempting to break up crusted material inside a lime surge tank by hydro-blasting through an open access door. The material inside the tank suddenly broke loose. The victim was knocked to the ground and engulfed.



Best Practices

- Ensure that tanks, bins, or silos have been thoroughly examined and materials that could be hazardous to personnel have been removed or diverted prior to opening or activating access doors, valves, feeders, or gates.
- Ensure that miners jointly discuss the safe job procedures, identify all possible hazards, and take all precautions to safely perform the task before the work begins.
- Ensure that miners are not required to work where they are exposed to entrapment by materials contained in tanks, bins, or silos.

This is the 25th fatality reported in calendar year 2004 in Metal and Nonmetal mining. As of this date in 2003, there were 25 fatalities reported in these industries. This is the 6th fatality classified as Machinery in 2004. There were eight Machinery fatalities in the same period in 2003.