

MNMM Fatal 2005-03

- Sliding Material
- March 11, 2005 (Kentucky)
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Laborer
- 23 years old
- 1 year experience

Overview

- The victim had entered a bin and was attempting to dislodge material that had adhered to the inside walls. He was not wearing a safety belt secured to a lanyard and was engulfed when the material suddenly broke free.

Entrapment occurred in this bin.



Entrapment Area



Why Did Accident Occur?

- The accident occurred because management failed to establish safe work procedures and methods for cleaning the bins. The victim had not been task trained in the health and safety aspects and safe work procedures relating to the task being performed. It was a practice at this mine for employees to enter bins without being equipped with a safety belt or harness with a lifeline attached. A second person similarly equipped was not present to adjust or keep the victim's lifeline tight.

Causal Factor

- Management policies and controls were inadequate. Procedures had not been established to ensure employees were protected from the sliding material hazards when they entered the #2 Dust Bin. Miners entered the bin and routinely cleared blockages but were not provided with safety belts or harnesses attached to lifelines. A second person was not present to ensure the lifeline was kept tight.

Causal Factor

- Management policies and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that miners received training in the health and safety aspects and safe work procedures related to cleaning bins. There was no documentation to verify that the victim was adequately trained on how to safely unplug or clean the plant bins.

Best Practices

- **Prior to entering bins, hoppers, tanks, or silos:**
 - Ensure supply and discharge operating controls are locked out.
 - Ensure a safety harness properly secured to a lanyard is worn and a second person is positioned outside to adjust the lanyard.
 - Ensure miners have been trained to safely perform the task.

Best Practices

- Prior to entering bins, hoppers, tanks, or silos:
 - Miners should discuss the work procedures, identify all possible hazards, and ensure steps are taken to safely perform the task.
 - Management should routinely monitor these activities to ensure miners are protected from possible hazards.