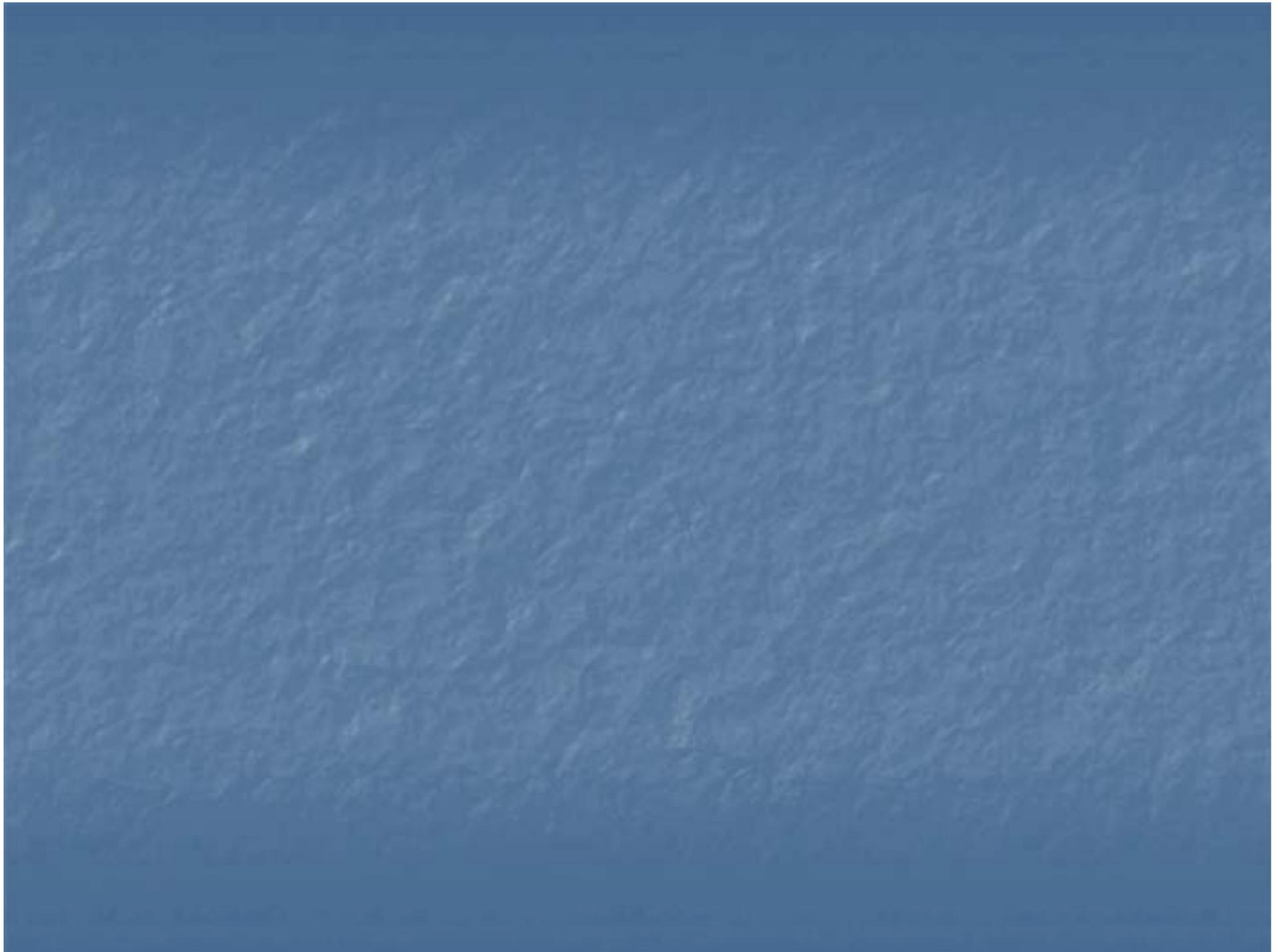


MNMM Fatal 2005-04

- Machinery
- March 23, 2005 (South Carolina)
- Cement Operation
- Contractor Scaffolding Construction Helper
- 34 years old
- 1 week experience

Overview

- The victim was fatally injured while operating an aerial platform. He was struck by a support beam and was pinned against the basket controls.





Why Did Accident Occur?

The accident occurred because the victim was not trained to safely operate the aerial platform and had no previous work experience operating it. The foreman, who instructed the victim prior to the accident, had not been trained in the safe operation of the machine. Material stacked inside the basket restricted the victim's maneuverability while operating the controls for the machine. The locking device on the basket controls, which prevented accidental movement of the basket, was also inoperative.

Causal Factors

- A risk assessment to determine possible hazards and to establish safe work procedures was not conducted prior to performing the task of removing the scaffolding from the raw mill building.
- Management policies, standards, and controls were inadequate. Neither the victim nor his foreman was trained in the health and safety aspects and safe procedures regarding the operating controls of the machine. The speed control dial which controlled the maximum speed of most of the boom movements of the aerial platform was found set for the maximum possible speed.

Causal Factors

- Procedures were not in place to ensure that the victim's movement was not restricted by material placed in the basket of the aerial platform.
- Management policies, standards, and controls were inadequate. Procedures for performing a pre-operational inspection of the machine did not identify that the safety locking ring on the lateral and vertical movement control lever was inoperative. The aerial platform was not removed from service and the defect was not repaired.

Best Practices

- Ensure that contract employees are properly trained to safely operate the equipment they are using.
- Use equipment only for its intended purpose. Boom lifts are not cranes!
- When using boom lifts in work areas with limited space, ensure that the controls are placed in the slowest speed to avoid abrupt movement.
- Management should routinely monitor work activities to ensure that miners are protected from possible hazards.