



Fatality #21 - December 9, 2005
(Victim Died December 26, 2005)
Slip or Fall of Person - Underground - WY
Pacific Minerals - Bridger Underground Coal Mine

COAL MINE FATALITY - On Friday, December 9, 2005, a 49-year old contractor employee (ironworker/welder) with 5 days mining experience fell from a height of 25 feet, resulting in massive head trauma. The victim climbed over a handrail with a pry bar to assist in repositioning a cover for a truck dump station. While prying, the cover suddenly moved, causing the victim to lose his balance and fall to a lower level of the truck dump. The victim died of his injuries on December 26, 2005.



Best Practices

- Always use fall protection equipment, safety belts and lines, when working near elevated openings where there is a danger of falling.
- Fill bin with material prior to working over the bin.
- Heed handrails and guards in place at openings through which persons may fall.
- Train personnel in safe work procedures regarding the use of handrails and fall protection equipment during maintenance and construction activities and ensure their use.
- Stop, Look, Analyze, and Manage (SLAM) each task to identify all possible hazards. Take action to protect yourself before performing every task.

This is the 21st fatality reported during calendar year 2005 in the coal mining industry. This is the second fatality classified as Slip or Fall of Person in 2005. As of the accident date in 2004, there were 26 fatalities reported in coal mining. There were no fatalities in this category at this time in 2004.

The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.
