

MNM Fatal 2006-07

- Fall of Highwall
- April 21, 2006 (Indiana)
- Dimension Limestone Operation
- Driller/Breaker
- 35 years old
- 48 weeks mining experience

Overview

The victim and a co-worker were drilling an uneven area of the quarry floor at the base of a limestone block that had been cut from the bench. Subsequent movement of the limestone block caused a cracked section to fracture and fall on top of both men. The victim was fatally injured and the co-worker was seriously injured when they were crushed under the limestone slab.



Root Causes

- Management policies and controls were inadequate. Procedures were not in place to require that hazardous ground conditions be taken down or supported before work or travel commenced.
- Management failed to formalize policies and procedures that would require thorough examinations of air control valves to identify defects. The defective air control valve was not removed from service.

Best Practices

- Always conduct examinations of highwalls to identify loose ground or unstable conditions before work begins and as changing ground conditions warrant.
- Ensure that the person conducting the examination has the training and experience to recognize potential hazards.
- Prohibit work or travel in areas where hazards from unstable ground have not been corrected.
- Discuss work procedures and identify all hazards associated with the work to be performed along with the methods to protect personnel. Stop, Look, Analyze, Manage (SLAM)