

MNMM Fatal 2006-25

- Falling Material Accident
- December 15, 2006 (Alaska)
- Lead and Zinc Operation
- Geologist
- 51 years old
- 11 years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when he was struck by a large piece of frozen, conglomerated material that rolled from the top of a muckpile. The victim was examining the muckpile face to determine the location of the ore-waste contact point.





4' X 5' Rock

Root Cause

- Management policies and controls were inadequate. There were no procedures requiring muckpiles to be trimmed to prevent hazards to persons and ensure that miners could safely examine muckpiles while standing near the face. Management failed to identify the blasted chunks of frozen material near the top of the muck pile as a potential hazard.

Best Practices

- Examine work areas to identify all possible hazards. Ensure that all hazards are eliminated so the task can be safely performed.
- Establish procedures that ensure miners always work from safe locations.
- Train miners in safe work procedures and hazard recognition, specifically to observe unsafe ground conditions while working near highwalls.
- If material needs examined, use a loader to remove it from the pile.