

# MNMM Fatal 2007-05

- Other (Drowning) Accident
- March 30, 2007 (Louisiana)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Dredge Operator
- 34 years old
- 16 years experience

# Overview

The victim was fatally injured when he fell into a dredge pond and drowned. He was working alone on the dredge deck, possibly attempting to untangle a winch cable. He was not wearing a life jacket.



# Root Causes

- Management policies and work procedures failed to address working alone on the dredge deck while performing potentially hazardous duties.
- Management policies and work procedures failed to identify the hazard of falling into water while working inside the hand rails that were provided around the perimeter of the dredge deck.

# Best Practices

- Always wear a life jacket where there is a danger of falling into the water.
- When performing maintenance tasks on the dredge, ensure that sufficient persons are on board to safely perform the task.
- Conduct a risk analysis before starting the task to ensure that all hazards are evaluated and eliminated.
- Ensure that machinery components are blocked against hazardous stored energy prior to performing maintenance or repairs.
- Ensure that the dredge has hand rails, of substantial construction and height, to prevent persons from falling overboard.