

MNMM Fatal 2010-02

- Powered Haulage Accident
- January 26, 2010 (California)
- Cement Operation
- Purchasing Agent
- 59 years old
- 5 years of experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured while standing on a haul road leading to a temporary dump site. He was in the area inspecting the material being unloaded at the dump site and apparently stepped between the trailers of an over-the-road tandem trailer truck to get out of the way of another tandem trailer truck exiting the temporary dump site. The truck had been waiting to unload and pulled forward. The victim was caught under the left front wheels of the rear trailer. He was holding a cell phone at the time of the accident.

The accident occurred because management did not have policies and procedures that provided for the safe movement of mobile equipment in an area with pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Mine management also failed to ensure that mobile equipment operators sounded a warning that was audible above the surrounding noise level prior to moving to warn all persons who could be exposed to a hazard from the equipment. Additionally, mine management did not ensure that the roadway in this area was maintained at a width sufficient to allow for safe operation. The site-specific hazard awareness training did not protect persons by addressing the appropriate subjects regarding the hazards associated with mobile equipment operating near pedestrians.



Root Causes

Root Cause: Management failed to ensure that truck drivers delivering material received proper site specific and hazard awareness training when they had to unload material at a temporary dump site due to adverse conditions.

Corrective Action: Management trained all truck drivers regarding changes in the mine's temporary dump site location, traffic patterns, and procedural changes due to adverse conditions.

Root Cause: Management failed to ensure that mobile equipment operators sounded an audible warning or used other effective means prior to moving to warn all persons who could be exposed to a hazard from the equipment.

Corrective Action: Management trained all mobile equipment operators to sound an audible warning or use other effective means prior to moving to warn all persons who could be exposed to a hazard from the equipment. All persons working in the area were also trained regarding these procedures.

Best Practices

- Train all persons to stay clear of mobile equipment.
- Be aware of the location and traffic patterns of mobile equipment in your work area.
- Communicate with mobile equipment operators and ensure they acknowledge your presence.
- Never approach mobile equipment until you receive confirmation from the operator indicating awareness of your presence.
- Wear high visibility clothing when working around mobile equipment.
- Avoid distractions, such as cell phones, when exposed to hazards.
- Before moving mobile equipment, look in the direction of travel, use all mirrors, cameras, and installed proximity detection devices to ensure no persons are in the intended path.
- Sound the horn to warn persons of intended movement and wait to give them time to move to a safe location.