



Enforcement Summary: Falls from Elevation Fatalities in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

From January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2008, 42 fatalities resulted from individuals falling from elevations in metal and nonmetal mines. A description of frequently cited standards and the tragic consequences of noncompliance follows below.¹

30 C.F.R. § 56.15005 requires persons to wear safety belts and lines when there is a danger of falling.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- safety belts and lines were not used;
- miners were wearing belts and lines, but were not tied off or used inadequate anchor points.

30 C.F.R. § 56.20011 requires that hazards not immediately obvious be barricaded or posted with warning signs providing information on the hazard.

Miners were fatally injured when:

- they stepped on opening covers not designed to support weight;
- they stepped on unsecured coverings/grating.

¹ In many cases noncompliance with more than one standard contributed to the fatal accidents. These frequently cited standards are not the only standards cited for this accident category.