



Safety Alert



Recent Increase in Fall of Person Accidents

28 miners have died after falling from heights over the last 10 years.

Deaths from falls have increased from 8% to 19% of mining fatalities in the last two years.

- Working without fall protection on top of trucks, in aerial lift baskets, and while accessing and egressing other mobile equipment
- While performing maintenance on crushers, screens, conveyors, and other milling equipment

MSHA issued 92 imminent danger orders for people working at heights without fall protection between January 2019 and June 2020. The most common violations were truck drivers climbing atop their vehicles, and maintenance and quarry personnel climbing to or working without fall protection in high places. Supervisors have been ordered down from dangerous locations.



A truck driver fell 9 ½ feet while adjusting the tarp. He had climbed up the side of the truck into the bed and fell while walking on loose sand.



A miner fell 28 feet from an aerial lift basket. While he was wearing a fall protection harness it was not attached to the basket's anchor point.

Best Practices

- **Reduce hazards.** Design work areas and develop job tasks to minimize fall hazards.
- **Have a program.** Establish an effective fall prevention and protection program. Provide task and site-specific hazard training that prohibits working at unprotected locations.
- **Provide a fall protection harness and lanyard** to each miner who may work at an elevated height or a location unprotected by handrails. Ensure their use.
- **Provide identifiable, secure anchor points** to attach lanyards.
- **Proactively enforce** fall protection equipment usage and safe work-at-height policies and procedures with supervisors, miners, contractors, and truck drivers.
- **Provide mobile or stationary platforms or scaffolding** at locations and on work projects where there is a risk of falling.
- **Provide safe truck tarping and bulk truck hatch access facilities.**

Report accidents and hazardous conditions: 1-800-746-1553

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