

## METAL/NONMETAL Close Call Accident

**Surface – Sand and Gravel** – On October 16, 2017, a miner was loading haul trucks when the cab of his excavator was struck by material falling from a 65-foot bank failure. The miner was not injured.



### Best Practices

- Operate excavators with the cab perpendicular to, and swinging away from, the highwall.
- Train all persons to recognize adverse conditions and environmental factors that can decrease highwall stability and understand safe job procedures to eliminate all hazards before beginning work.
- Examine highwalls and material piles from as many perspectives as possible (bottom, sides, and top/crest) while maintaining the safety of the examiner(s). Look for cracking, displacement, or other signs of distress.
- Maintain safe access to the top of highwalls so that thorough examinations can be conducted.
- Perform supplemental examinations of highwalls, banks, benches, and sloping terrain in the working area during and following inclement weather.
- Immediately remove all personnel exposed to hazardous ground conditions, barricade and post signs to prevent entry, and promptly correct unsafe conditions.
- Use mining methods that ensure highwall and bank stability and safe working conditions. Avoid undercutting and/or oversteepening of the highwall or bank slope. Mine only material that freely flows down.



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