

# **MNM Fatal 2014-02**

- Fall of Person
- February 21, 2014 (Kentucky)
- Cement Operation
- Contract Laborer
- 37 years old
- 6 months of experience

# Overview

The victim was killed February 21, 2014, while attempting to access an elevator. He went to the fourth floor of the old finish mill to get a bucket. When the victim was leaving, he opened the hoistway door on the fourth floor landing, stepped into the elevator shaft, and fell 51 feet to the top of the elevator car located on the ground floor.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure that procedures were established to designate a competent person to examine workplaces, including the elevator, once each shift for hazards that could adversely affect the safety of persons who used the elevator. Consequently, defective conditions related to the safe operation of the elevator were not corrected in a timely manner. The fourth floor hoistway landing door's worn condition caused the mechanical interlock to malfunction, allowing the door to open when the elevator car was not present.



# Root Causes

*Root Cause:* Management did not ensure the fourth floor hoistway landing door's worn condition was corrected, which caused the mechanical interlock to malfunction allowing the door to open when the elevator car was not present.

*Corrective Action:* The fourth floor elevator has not been repaired and is still under a 103 (k) Order. The mine operator ceased use of this elevator and will determine if the elevator will be repaired. Miners are currently using stairs.

*Root Cause:* Management did not ensure that daily workplace examinations were conducted on the elevators and that persons were trained to conduct these examinations to determine that the elevators' safety features were functional.

*Corrective Action:* Persons were trained to conduct daily workplace examinations to ensure that safety features on the elevators were functional. Signs were posted at each hoistway opening warning that the safety features must be functional. Additional site specific training was provided to the contractor service company personnel to further ensure that safety features are maintained for the safe operation of the elevators.



# Best Practices

- Immediately report any elevator problems to management.
- Ensure that any problems affecting the safety of an elevator are repaired promptly.
- Ensure that elevator door interlocks, that prevent the door from being opened unless the elevator car is present, are functional.
- Ensure that elevator doors will not open unless an elevator car is at the floor landing. Install audible signals that sound when the elevator car is at the landing prior to the doors opening.
- Train all persons to be aware of their surroundings when entering or exiting an elevator car.