



Fatality #20 - December 14, 2012
(Determined Chargeable July 8, 2013)
Slip/Fall of Person - Surface - Alabama
Taft Coal Sales & Associates Incorporated - Choctaw Mine

COAL MINE FATALITY - On Friday, December 14, 2012, a 52-year-old rock truck operator with over 13 years of mining experience fell from the truck he operated while attempting to ascend the access ladder to the operator's cab. On December 28, 2012, he died of complications from the injuries sustained in the fall.



Best Practices

- Always use the **"Three Points of Contact"** method. Ensure that either two hands and one foot, or one hand and two feet are in contact with the ladder at all times when mounting and dismounting equipment.
- Keep hands free of any objects when mounting or dismounting equipment.
- Maintain traction by ensuring footwear is free of potential slipping hazards such as dirt, oil, and grease.
- Always face equipment when mounting or dismounting it.
- Always maintain and use the access provided by the manufacturer.

This is the twentieth fatality reported in calendar year 2012 in the coal mining industry. As of this date in 2011, there were 23 fatalities reported in the coal mining industry. This is the fourth fatality classified as Slip or Fall of Person in 2012. At this time in 2011, there was one fatality in this classification.

The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.
