

Fatality Alert

MINE FATALITY – On March 5, 2021, a miner was fatally injured when the excavator he was operating rolled over into a body of water.



Best Practices

- **Construct berms or install guardrails** on roadways where a drop-off exists. Ensure berms and guardrails are at least as high as the mid-axle height of the largest equipment using the roadway.
- **Examine and maintain roadways** to prevent slope instability such as over steepened banks, sloughs, and cracking on the roadway and bank.
- **Install locked gates at the entrances of roadways that are infrequently traveled.** Post speed limit signs and install delineators at the edges of roads.
- **Always wear seatbelts when operating mobile equipment.**
- **When working near water, wear flotation devices and ensure combination seat belt cutter/window breaker tools are installed in equipment.** See safety alert <https://www.msha.gov/news-media/alerts-hazards/mnm-safety-alert-water-related-safety>.
- **Train equipment operators** in the safe performance of their tasks, potential hazards, and the use of alternative/emergency exits in cabs. Examine these exits during pre-operational examinations.

This is the sixth fatality reported in 2021, and the second classified as “Machinery.”

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.

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

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