

Fatality Alert

MINE FATALITY – On March 3, 2026, a contractor died while working in an excavated area when the adjacent concrete block retaining wall collapsed.



Best Practices

- Conduct inspections before working near retaining walls or earth-retaining structures. Look for signs of movement, cracking, bulging, loose blocks, seepage, or soil erosion.
- Stay clear of potentially unstable areas.
- Maintain a safe distance. Keep personnel, equipment, and materials back from the top and base of retaining walls to prevent surcharge loading or vibration that could cause sudden wall failure.
- Never work directly below or adjacent to unsupported or unprotected excavations or unstable retaining walls. Use barricades, controlled access, or engineered protection to prevent exposure to falling blocks or wall collapse.
- Train miners in safe work procedures and hazard recognition.

This is the third fatality reported in 2026, and the first classified as “Falling, Rolling, or Sliding Rock or Material of Any Kind.”

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

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

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