

# MNMM Fatal 2007-01

- 'Other' Accident
- January 2, 2007 (Texas)
- Alumina Operation
- Instrument Technician
- 37 years old
- 2½ years experience

# Overview

The victim was fatally injured when he opened a valve in the piping system of a vacuum monitoring line and hydrogen fluoride discharged onto his face. He was not wearing a respirator or face shield when he opened the valve in preparation for unplugging the stem.



01/03/2007

# Root Cause

- Management standards, controls, and policies were inadequate. They failed to require that the appropriate special protective equipment be used by IE technicians assigned to remove blockage within monitoring line stems.

# Best Practices

- Review maintenance and inspection practices to ensure all possible hazards have been identified and appropriate controls are in place to protect miners.
- Train miners in safe work procedures and hazard recognition, specifically when performing maintenance on pipelines.
- Require appropriate respiratory protection, special protective clothing, and face shields where hazards from gases, fumes, chemicals, or mechanical irritants may exist.
- Stop, Look, Analyze, and Manage, SLAM each task to identify all potential hazards Ensure that all hazards are eliminated so the task can be safely performed.