MNM Fatal 2007-02

- Fall of Ground Accident
- January 25, 2007 (Washington)
- Lead and Zinc Operation
- Underground Miner
- 43 years old
- 7 years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured while operating a roof bolter. He was installing wire mesh when a large rock fell and struck him.


Victim's Position

Root Causes

- Management policies and controls were inadequate and did not ensure that newly hired experienced miners were trained before they were assigned to begin work duties. The victim had received site specific training but had not received training on the mine's roof control plan and was unfamiliar with the ground conditions at this mine.
- Management policies and controls were inadequate and did not ensure that persons were protected from fall of ground hazards when they were installing wire mesh. The elevated work platform was not equipped with a canopy; the bolting machine was not equipped with a device to handle the wire mesh; roof support jacks were not provided; and a detailed bolt installation sequence was not being utilized to ensure miners were located under supported ground when installing ground support.

Best Practices

- Examine and test ground conditions prior to performing work.
- Take down or support ground that creates a hazard to persons before performing other work or travel in the affected area.
- Train miners in safe work procedures and hazard recognition, specifically when bolting.
- 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.