

MNMF Fatal 2008-07

- Powered Haulage Accident
- April 24, 2008 (Iowa)
- Industrial Sand Operation
- Laborer
- 48 years old
- 32 weeks experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when she was struck by a front-end loader that backed up. The accident occurred because management policies and procedures failed to ensure that persons could safely work in areas where mobile equipment operated and failed to ensure that safety defects were corrected in a timely manner. The right rear-view mirror on the front-end loader was broken along the top portion and the mounting bracket was bent. The victim's cap lamp was not positioned on her hard hat and no reflective material was on the hard hat. Reflective material on the victim's equipment belt was obscured by the cap lamp battery, self-rescuer, and possibly by the black coat she was wearing.



Root Causes

- Management policies and procedures failed to ensure that safety defects that were reported were corrected in a timely manner.
- Management policies and procedures failed to ensure that persons could safely work in areas where equipment operated.

Best Practices

- Before moving mobile equipment, look in the direction of travel, be certain no one is in the intended path, sound the horn to warn possible unseen persons, and wait to give them time to get to a safe location.
- Ensure all miners are trained to recognize work place hazards, specifically the limited visibility and blind areas inherent to operation of large equipment and the hazard of mobile equipment traveling near them.
- Supervisors should regularly monitor work practices, especially those of new miners, and reinforce the importance of safe work practices and take immediate action to correct unsafe conditions or work practices.
- Wear reflective clothing to ensure high visibility when necessary to walk or work in the area of moving equipment.
- Correct any defects that may affect the safe operation of self-propelled mobile equipment.