

MNMF Fatal 2008-10

- Powered Haulage Accident
- May 27, 2008 (California)
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Truck Driver
- 52 years old
- 1½ years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when he backed a truck to dump a load of material on top of a stockpile and the ground failed. The truck rolled over the edge and fell vertically approximately 30 feet landing upside down at the bottom of the stockpile.



Root Causes

- Management policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that persons operating haul trucks could safely dump on the One Way stockpile. The edge of the stockpile was cut steep at approximately a 78 degree angle because material was removed from the toe of the stockpile at the same time that trucks were dumping at the top.
- Management policies were inadequate and failed to ensure that truck drivers wore seat belts that were provided.

Best Practices

- Wear seat belts whenever operating mobile equipment.
- Maintain berms at least mid-axle height on the largest piece of equipment using a roadway.
- Visually inspect dumping locations prior to beginning work and as changing conditions warrant.
- Dump loads a safe distance back from the edge of a stockpile if it is suspected the ground may fail to support mobile equipment.
- Do not dump at the top of a stockpile while material is being loaded out below or near the edge of over-steepened stockpile faces.
- Maintain stockpile slopes at the angle of repose.