

MNMF Fatal 2008-17

- Falling Material Accident
- October 7, 2008 (Pennsylvania)
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Lead Man
- 56 years old
- 18 years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when he was engulfed in a chute in an underground surge tunnel. He was working below the feeder hopper when material fell from the primary surge pile.



Root Causes

- Management policies, procedures, and controls failed to ensure that persons could safely perform maintenance in the surge tunnel. The material in the primary surge pile above the No. 1 belt feeder was not removed and the discharge of materials had not ceased before persons started repairs in the feeder chute.
- A risk assessment was not performed to identify all possible hazards and ensure controls were in place to protect persons performing work in the surge tunnel. The victim entered a chute while material that could fall remained in the surge pile overhead.

Best Practices

- Identify potential hazards and establish safe work procedures for any work conducted in a surge tunnel.
- Never work under material feeding into bins, hoppers, chutes, and surge tunnels.
- Remove or prevent all material from falling if repairs are required in chutes or hoppers.
- Disconnect and lock out the circuits controlling the feed before entering.