

MNMM Fatal 2008-18

- Falling Material Accident
- October 9, 2008 (Nevada)
- Gold Operation
- Welder
- 56 years old
- 21 years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when a tool rack fell on him. He and another miner were disassembling a tool rack in preparation to move it to a new truck shop. Three steel plates had been removed from the front section of the tool rack, placed on the shop floor and leaned against the tool rack. The weight of the detached plates caused the tool rack to rotate, slide, and topple onto the victim and the other miner, who was hospitalized and later released.



Root Cause

Management failed to establish policies and procedures to ensure that persons could safely disassemble the tool rack. A risk assessment to determine potential hazards and to establish safe work procedures was not conducted prior to performing the task.

Best Practices

- Establish and discuss safe work procedures. Identify and control all hazards to finish the job safely.
- Train all persons to recognize and understand safe job procedures before beginning work.
- Evaluate procedures to ensure all possible hazards have been identified and appropriate controls are in place to protect persons.
- Continually check for unstable conditions throughout the dismantling process.
- Secure or remove heavy objects that have the potential to suddenly or unexpectedly shift.