

# MNMM Fatal 2008-20

- Fall of Roof Accident
- October 17, 2008 (Georgia)
- Underground Marble Mine
- Underground Scaler Operator
- 45 years old
- 8 years of experience

# Overview

The victim was fatally injured when a large rock fell from the roof crushing the cab of the track mounted excavator he was operating. He was scaling a rib and roof in a heading of the mine when the rock fell from the roof.



# Root Causes

- Management did not ensure that scaling was performed from a location that did not expose persons to injury from falling material.
- Management failed to ensure that established ground control policies were being followed. Specifically, the height of the headings were not being maintained 25' to 27' high as established by management's ground control policy.



# Best Practices

- Examine and test ground conditions in areas where work is to be performed prior to work commencing and as ground conditions warrant during the shift.
- Be alert to any change of ground conditions.
- Identify and scale loose ground from a location which will not expose persons to falling material.
- Use scaling equipment with sufficient reach to prevent persons from exposure to falling material.
- Take down or support ground that creates a hazard to persons before performing other work or travel in the affected area.
- When ground conditions create a hazard to persons, install ground support before other work is permitted in the affected area.
- Design and use mining methods that will maintain stability and control the ground in places where persons work or travel.