MNM Fatal 2008-21

Fall of Material Accident
October 29, 2008 (Utah)
Copper Operation
Delivery Truck Driver
81 years old
55 years of experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured while unfastening a load of pipe from a flatbed trailer. He was preparing to unload nine sections of pipe from the trailer when one 50-foot section of pipe rolled off and struck him.



Root Cause

Contractor management policies and work procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that a truck load of pipe was unloaded in a manner that did not create a hazard to persons.

Best Practices

- Analyze all tasks and identify possible hazards prior to beginning work.
- Establish safe work procedures and discuss with persons performing the task.
- Identify and control all hazards to finish the job safely.
- Train all persons to recognize and understand safe procedures to perform tasks before beginning work.
- Evaluate the stability of the material before unfastening a large load. Pay particular attention to loads that may have shifted or become unstable during transport.
- Install secondary supports (side stakes) of adequate height and strength to prevent material from falling when the load is unfastened; or prior to unfastening the material, secure the item being unloaded to the machine used in the unloading process.
- Stand clear of items being loaded or unloaded.