

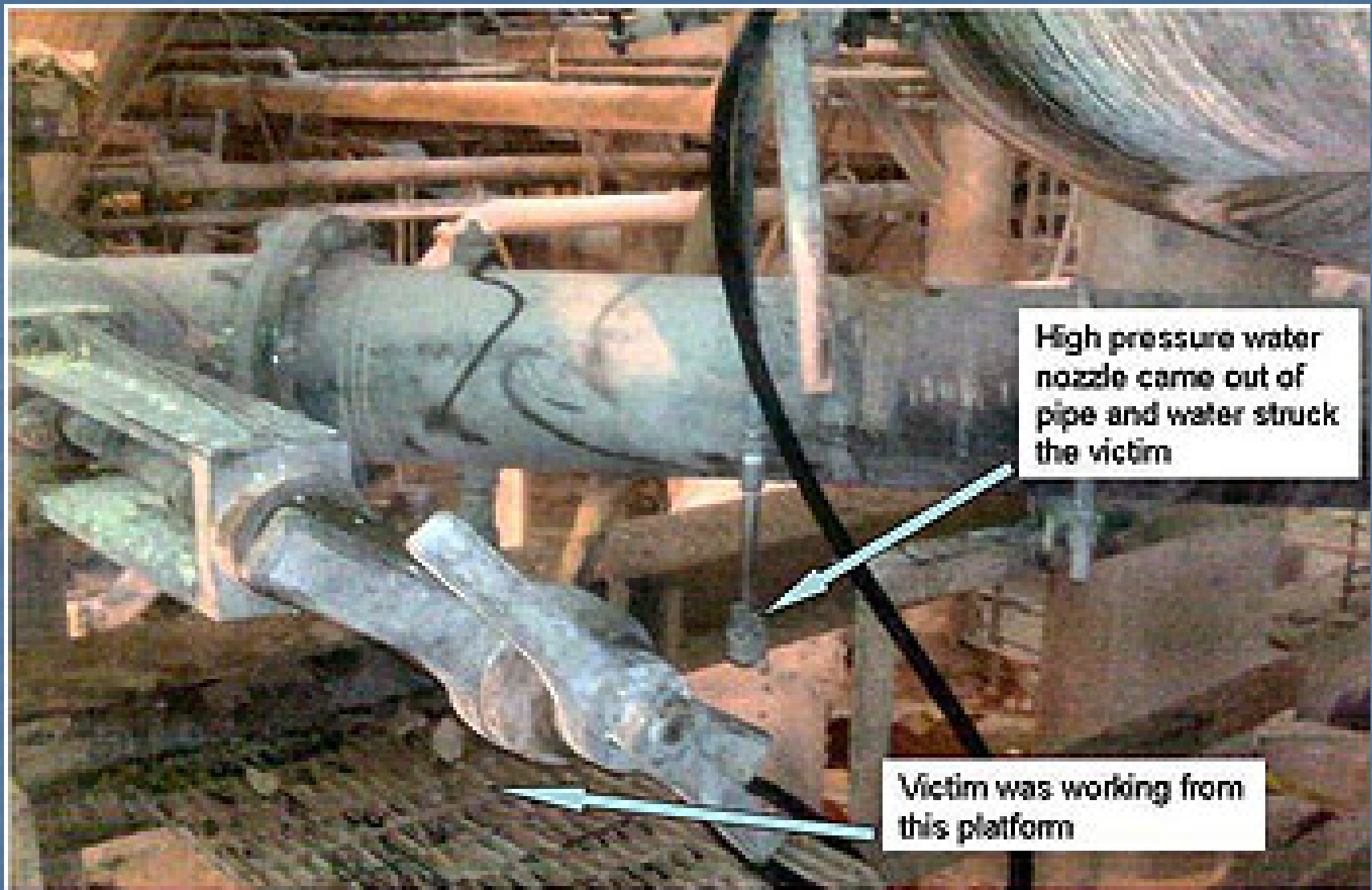
# MNMM Fatal 2009-03

- Machinery Accident
- January 31, 2009 (Texas)
- Alumina Operation
- Contractor Hydro-blasting Technician
- 40 years old
- 50 weeks of experience

# Overview

The victim fatally injured when he was struck by water from a high pressure hose. He was hydro-blasting the inside of a 30-inch diameter pipe when the hose end and attachments (stinger and nozzle) inadvertently turned and exited the pipe.

The accident occurred because contractor management policies and safe work procedures were not followed during hydro-blasting activities. The stinger was too short for the task and a deflector shield was not placed over the pipe opening. Additionally, the victim did not have access to the dump control valve to stop the flow of water from the high pressure hose.



High pressure water nozzle came out of pipe and water struck the victim

Victim was working from this platform

# Root Cause

***Root Cause:*** Contractor management did not ensure that established safe operating procedures were followed during all hydro-blasting activities.

***Corrective Action:*** Contractor management should establish policies to ensure that established safe operating procedures are followed when hydro-blasting work is performed. Persons performing the task should be trained and monitored to ensure the procedures are being followed.

# Best Practices

- Establish, review, and follow procedures to ensure all hazards are identified and controls are used to protect persons before beginning work.
- Train persons on hazards and safe work procedures for high pressure water cleaning.
- Ensure that operators are in a safe position and have control of their equipment at all times.
- Install barricades or warning signs to prohibit access.
- Follow equipment manufacturers' operating instructions.
- Provide emergency stop/depressurization control.
- Maintain sight or voice communications between person operating the high pressure nozzle and person operating the controls.
- Use special protective equipment and clothing.
- Contractor and mine management should routinely monitor work activities to ensure safe operating procedures are followed and persons are protected from hazards.