

MNMM Fatal 2009-08

- Machinery Accident
- May 1, 2009 (Texas)
- Dredging Operation (Sand & Gravel)
- Dredge Operator
- 59 years old
- 3 years of experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when he became entangled in one of two positioning winches on a dredge. He was attempting to hand guide the cable onto the winch while it was rewinding.

The accident occurred because management had not established adequate policies and safe work procedures for performing maintenance on the dredge. The winch was not taken out of service when the winch control lever functions reversed following the installation of a new winch cable. The winch was not shut off before maintenance was performed.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Management had not established clear policies and procedures for winch maintenance.

Corrective Action: The mine was permanently abandoned before management could implement corrective action.

Best Practices

- Conduct a complete pre-operational inspection of equipment that includes checking winches and cables.
- Install new winch cables to reel in the same direction as the old cable.
- Inspect winches to confirm proper reeling of the cable.
- Assign two persons to perform maintenance tasks on dredges.
- Block equipment against hazardous motion before performing maintenance tasks.
- Label valve bank levers to indicate direction of movement.
- Do not wear loose clothing when working near moving machine parts.