

MNMM Fatal 2009-13

- Machinery Accident
- July 2, 2009 (Pennsylvania)
- Dimension Stone Operation
- Mine Owner
- 52 years old
- 34 years of experience

Overview

The victim was working alone and was cutting stone on top of a bench using a walk-behind concrete saw. Apparently, he was operating the saw near the edge of the bench when he tripped and fell. The victim and the saw went over the 9-foot ledge and the saw fell on him.

The accident occurred because management failed to ensure that a berm or barrier was installed along the highwall edge to prevent a fall of person or machinery from the bench.



Root Cause

Root Cause: *No procedures were in place for persons to safely operate a walk behind concrete saw on an elevated bench where there was a hazard of falling. No berms or guardrails were provided and maintained along the edge of the bench where a nine foot drop off existed.*

Corrective Action: *The victim was a sole proprietor and; therefore, the business terminated at the time of his death. Consequently, no corrective action was taken.*

Best Practices

- Identify all hazards and use appropriate controls to protect persons.
- Ensure that operators are in a safe position and have control of their equipment at all times.
- Keep workplaces free of tripping hazards.
- Use barricades or railings at edges of drop-offs where persons are in danger of falling.
- Equip walk behind masonry saws with devices to stop the engine if the operator can not maintain control of the equipment.
- Design bench top stone cutting patterns so the saw operator is not positioned between the saw and the drop off edge.