

# MNMM Fatal 2009-15

- Powered Haulage Accident
- September 15, 2009 (Arkansas)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Contract Truck Driver
- 59 years old
- 13 years of experience

# Overview

The victim was fatally injured when she was struck by a front-end loader. She parked a delivery truck on a county road adjacent to the mine and walked onto the site to deliver a package. The front-end loader operator was backing the loader toward the victim's truck but did not see her behind the loader.

The accident occurred because management policies and procedures did not ensure that foot traffic was adequately controlled. Signs or signals that warned of hazardous conditions had not been placed at all appropriate locations at the mine.

The mine was accessible through two entrances from the county road. Delivery drivers had been instructed to report to the office but no one usually worked there. Consequently, the drivers had to search for someone to sign for deliveries.



# Root Cause

- **Root Cause:** *Management policies and procedures did not ensure that foot traffic was adequately controlled. Signs or signals that warn of hazardous conditions had not been placed at all appropriate locations at the mine. Delivery drivers were instructed to report to the office but no one usually worked there.*
- **Corrective Action:** *The operator placed signs at both entrances to the mine and other appropriate locations warning persons of various hazards at the site. A telephone and several cell phone numbers were placed beneath a sign in the office instructing visitors to remain in the office and call mine personnel to meet them.*

# Best Practices

- Establish a visitor control policy that includes signs directing visitors to a safe location.
- Train delivery persons to recognize work place hazards they could be exposed to while at the mine.
- Always make sure equipment operators see you before entering any area where mobile equipment is operated. If possible, make eye contact with the equipment operator. When moving to a different area, inform the equipment operator before leaving the area.
- Before moving mobile equipment, look in the direction of travel, use all mirrors, cameras, and installed proximity detection devices to ensure no one is in the intended path.
- Ensure that all persons are clear before moving equipment. Sound your horn to warn unseen persons that you are about to move and wait a few moments to give them time to get to a safe location.
- Ensure that backup alarms on mobile equipment are maintained and operational.