

# MNMM Fatal 2010-08

- Fall of Rib Accident
- May 26, 2010 (Utah)
- Underground Uranium Mine
- Contract Miner
- 28 years old
- 10 weeks of experience

# Overview

The victim died when a section of rib fell on him. He was manually scaling loose material from the rib when it fell. The material that fell was about 15 feet wide, 11 feet long, and 4 to 30 inches thick.

The accident occurred because management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate. The area was not examined or tested by an experienced person designated by the mine operator prior to work commencing in the affected area. Additionally, procedures to ensure that persons scale loose ground from a safe location were not adequate.



Jack Leg Drills

Hose, Drill Steel, etc.

**Victim's Location**

**Fallen Rib Material**

# Root Causes

- **Root Cause:** Management policies, procedures, and controls failed to ensure that experienced persons, examined and tested for loose ground in areas prior to work commencing.
- **Corrective Action:** Management amended the written work procedures to ensure that experienced persons test for loose ground in areas prior to work commencing. The miners received additional training regarding examining and testing for loose ground.
- **Root Cause:** Management policies, procedures, and controls failed to ensure that scaling of loose ground was performed from a safe location.
- **Corrective Action:** Management amended the written work procedures to ensure that persons engaged in the scaling of loose ground perform the task from a safe location. The miners have received additional training regarding proper manual scaling methods.

# Best Practices

- Always examine, sound and test for loose ground in areas before starting to work, after blasting, and as ground conditions warrant.
- Train all persons to scale loose material safely.
- Always perform manual scaling from a safe location.
- When manually scaling, use scaling bars of a length and design that allow the removal of loose material without exposing the persons performing the work.
- Install ground support in ribs where conditions warrant.