

# MNMM Fatal 2010-09

- Explosives Accident
- May 28, 2010 (California)
- Underground Gold Mine
- Supervisor
- 62 years old
- 20 years of experience

# Overview

The victim died when an unplanned delayed initiation of explosives occurred. The victim and another miner entered a blast area to check it. When they were within 25 feet of the face, the misfire detonated and both miners were struck by fly rock from the blast. The other miner was injured, hospitalized, and later released.

The accident occurred because management failed to ensure that policies and procedures to protect miners in blast areas were followed. The procedures did not ensure that miners did not return to the blast site for at least one hour after the suspected burning stopped.



Shot Material



Location of fatal victim →



Location of injured miner →



# Root Cause

**Root Cause:** Management failed to ensure that miners were clear of areas where burning explosives were suspected.

**Corrective Action:** The deteriorated explosives have been removed from the mine site. Management trained all miners in the proper time to wait for suspected misfires or burning explosives.

# Best Practices

- Follow the manufacturers' guidelines for the storage and usage of explosives.
- Keep explosives storage areas clean, dry and orderly.
- Properly rotate explosive stock to use oldest stock first.
- Never use damaged/deteriorated/outdated explosives, initiation devices, or blasting agents.
- Wait a minimum of the required times before entering the blast area when either a misfire and/or burning explosives are a possibility.