

MNMM Fatal 2010-15

- Other Accident (Drowning)
- August 24, 2010 (Oklahoma)
- Sand & Gravel Dredge Operation
- Dredge Operator
- 23 years old
- 4 years of experience

Overview

The victim drowned while attempting to retrieve a small boat from a dredge pond. The boat was on a trailer, which was being pulled up a ramp from the dredge pond, when the boat dislodged and drifted back into the dredge pond.

The accident occurred because management failed to ensure that persons wore life jackets while working around water. The victim was not wearing a life jacket when he swam into the dredge pond. Investigators concluded that he hit his head while attempting to climb into the boat.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Management failed to ensure that persons wore life jackets while working around water.

Corrective Action: Procedures were established to ensure that persons wear life jackets at all times while working around water.

Best Practices

- Wear a life jacket where there is a danger from falling into water.
- Review procedures to ensure all possible hazards have been identified and appropriate controls are in place to protect miners before beginning work.
- Develop procedures for loading and unloading boats in dredge operations and train all persons.
- Inspect equipment, including the winch and cable, prior to use and maintain in a safe condition.
- Attach the trailer winch rope securely to the boat prior to removing from the water.
- Ensure that persons working around water receive training for swimming.