

# MNMM Fatal 2011-06

- Fall of Person Accident
- June 4, 2011 (Alaska)
- Gold Operation
- Mill Operator
- 39 years old
- 1 year and 14 weeks of experience

# Overview

The victim was sweeping in a gyratory crusher building when he fell through two unsecured openings (maintenance hatches) and landed approximately 60 feet two floors below.

The accident occurred because management failed to ensure that it had policies and procedures in place so persons could safely remove any dust that accumulated around an uncovered opening on the dump floor where there was a danger of falling. The opening was created when the cover on a maintenance hatch was removed, eight days prior to the accident, to cool the lube floor below. The victim was not wearing fall protection, no warning signs were posted to identify the hazard, and no handrails were in place on the west side of the maintenance hatch.



# Root Causes

**Root Cause:** Management failed to ensure that it had policies and procedures so persons could safely clean the crusher dump floor between the west maintenance hatches and crusher dump pocket where there was a danger of falling.

**Corrective Action:** Railings were fabricated and installed around the maintenance hatches and along the crusher dump pocket to prevent entry into those areas. Signage was posted on all railings requiring the use of fall protection when the railings are removed. Management established policies for persons working around maintenance hatches and made persons aware of these new policies and procedures.

**Root Cause:** Management failed to enforce its own policies and procedures to ensure persons use fall protection where there is a danger of falling.

**Corrective Action:** All persons were retrained to recognize hazards where there is a danger of falling and to use fall protection where the danger of falling exists. Management will monitor persons to ensure that fall protection is used.

# Best Practices

- Establish and discuss safe work procedures. Identify and control all hazards. Train all persons to recognize and understand safe job procedures before beginning work.
- Always use fall protection when working where a fall hazard exists.
- Protect openings near travelways through which persons may fall by installing railings, barriers, or covers.
- Keep temporary access opening covers secured in place at all times when the opening is not being used.
- Ensure that areas are barricaded or have warning signs posted at all approaches if hazards exist that are not immediately obvious.