

MNM Fatal 2011-12

- Powered Haulage Accident
- October 31, 2011 (Montana)
- Platinum Mine
- Muck Haul Leadman
- 42 years old
- 3 years of experience

Overview

The victim was killed while operating a 4-yard Load-Haul-Dump (LHD) on an underground haul road when he lost control of the LHD on an "S" curve. The right rear corner of the LHD struck the right rib of the 38W heading between 4500 and 5500 Foot Wall Lateral (FWL). The LHD traveled across the haul road to the left side for approximately 49 feet, striking the rib several times with the left side of the cab. At that time, a spiling (rebar anchored in the rib for ground control), penetrated the top left corner window, entered the cab, and struck the victim.

The accident occurred because management's policies and procedures failed to ensure equipment operators maintained control of mobile equipment while operating equipment.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Management's policies and procedures failed to ensure equipment operators were specifically trained to maintain control of mobile equipment while operating equipment. The victim did not maintain control of the LHD he was operating.

Corrective Action: Management established policies and procedures to ensure that equipment operators operate mobile equipment safely. The new policies and procedures require in part that:

- Persons at all times maintain control and operate equipment at a safe speed for conditions.
- Walking speed is required at areas that are signed and demarcated as "slow to walking speed" areas (some supply areas, shops & intersections where deemed necessary).
- Equipment shall be operated at a reduced speed in all haulageways with reduced clearance, corners, curves or damp road conditions.
- Equipment shall be operated at speeds that minimize contact with ribs.
- When traveling around blind corners or entering FWL from ramps or crosscuts, sound horn or flash lights to warn others before entering.
- Whether operating transportation, utility, haulage, or LHD equipment, the operator must be aware of size, visibility, mechanism of steering, task at hand, and operate the equipment according to conditions.

All persons that operate mobile equipment were trained regarding these new policies and procedures.

Best Practices

- Operators of self-propelled mobile equipment shall maintain control of the equipment while it is in motion.
- Maintain all roadways free of materials that may pose a hazard to equipment operators. This includes materials on the floor and protruding from the ribs, back, or walls.
- Operating speeds shall be consistent with conditions of roadways, tracks, grades, clearance, visibility, curves, and traffic.
- Slow down or drop to a lower gear when necessary. Post areas where lower speeds are warranted.
- Always wear a seat belt when operating self-propelled mobile equipment.
- Trim protruding Spielings.
- Keep mobile equipment operator's stations free of materials that can impair the safe operation of the equipment.
- When clearances on roadways are restricted, install warning devices in advance of the area and conspicuously mark it.