

MNMM Fatal 2012-06

- Powered Haulage Accident
- May 15, 2012 (Kentucky)
- Underground Crushed Stone Mine
- Haul Truck Driver
- 37 years old
- 2 years of experience

Overview

The victim was killed while operating an articulated haul truck down a steep slope. She returned to work on May 14, 2012, following a voluntary layoff of approximately 2½ years. She was driving down the slope when the truck went out of control and struck a rib, causing the tractor portion of the truck (cab) to overturn.

The accident occurred due to the failure of management to ensure the victim was task trained in the safe operation of the haul truck, that safe operating speeds were maintained, and hazardous conditions on the slope were corrected in a timely manner.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Management's policies and procedures failed to ensure equipment operators were trained in the safe operation of Volvo haul trucks. The victim did not maintain control of the haul truck she was operating. Poor surface conditions of the West Slope including humps, potholes, and dips, were not corrected in a timely manner. No traffic warning signs or signals were provided to ensure safe travel in the mine.

Corrective Action: Management established a written plan for New Miner and Task Training. This training included procedures ensuring persons can safely operate the haul trucks. The proper documentation of the training will be provided. Management established policies and procedures to ensure that equipment operators operate mobile equipment safely. The new policies and procedures require in part that:

- Mobile equipment operators were task trained and certified by a trainer that has extensive knowledge of hazards associated with the work to be performed.
- Signs were posted limiting speed while traveling steep slopes.
- Loaded haul trucks will not travel between levels using the slopes.
- Mobile equipment will be operated at reduced speeds in all haulage ways with reduced clearance, corners, curves, or damp conditions.
- Only one piece of mobile equipment will be allowed on a slope at a time.
- When traveling around blind corners or entering ramps or slope crosscuts, radio contact will be made to warn other persons before entering.

Best Practices

- Ensure that mobile equipment operators are task trained adequately and demonstrate proficiency in all phases of mobile equipment operation before performing work.
- Conduct adequate pre-operational checks and ensure the service brakes are properly maintained and will stop and hold the mobile equipment prior to operating.
- Operators of self-propelled mobile equipment shall maintain control of the equipment while it is in motion.
- Operating speeds shall be consistent with conditions of roadways, tracks, grades, clearance, visibility, curves, and traffic.
- Ensure that equipment manufacturer's load limits are not exceeded.
- 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.
- Ensure that equipment operators maintain adequate communications.