

MNMF Fatal 2012-11

- Fall of Person Accident
- August 31, 2012 (Nevada)
- Gold Operation
- Miner
- 49 years old
- 24 years of experience

Overview

The victim was killed when he fell through a hole that had developed beneath bridged material in an open stope. He was assigned to prepare a work area to set up a long-hole bench drill and was working near the open stope when he fell down the stope into a muck pile. The victim was inadvertently loaded out with the material and transported by a haul truck to a surface stockpile where he was later discovered.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure that the victim used fall protection when working near an open stope where there was a danger of falling.



Root Cause

- **Root Cause:** Management failed to ensure that the victim wore fall protection when working near an open stope where there was a danger of falling. The victim fell into the stope while working on or near the bridged material.
- **Corrective Action:** Management reviewed the standard operating procedures for working near stopes and made revisions to include specific instructions regarding the use of fall protection. A second person will be present when a miner is working near a stope. All of the stope crews were trained in these new procedures.

Best Practices

- Always use fall protection with a lanyard anchored securely when working where there is a danger of falling.
- Examine workplaces for changing conditions when the strata, drill patterns, or other workplace conditions change.
- Establish policies and procedures for safely clearing hung or stuck material and ensure that persons follow those safe policies and procedures.
- Ensure that persons are task-trained and understand the hazards associated with the work being performed.
- Ensure that areas are barricaded or have warning signs posted at all approaches where hazards exist that are not immediately obvious.
- Consider using a "miner in distress" call feature available on many communication and tracking systems carried by miners. This feature is designed to improve emergency response if a miner working alone or out of sight of other miners requires immediate assistance.