

# MNM Fatal 2013-01

- Fall of Highwall Accident
- January 7, 2013 (Kentucky)
  - Victim died January 19, 2013
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Assistant Plant Manager
- 49 years old
- 30 years of experience

# Overview

The victim was injured when a large rock fell from a highwall and struck him in the left shoulder. He was working from a telescopic boom work platform (manlift) gathering rock samples from the face of the highwall. He was hospitalized and died on January 19, 2013, as a result of his injuries.

The mine was under a contractual obligation to supply a product that met certain specifications for a customer. The results of drill-shaving samples taken in December, 2012, indicated the location of non-specification material to be within 25-30 feet from the top of the highwall. In order to separate this material during the drilling and blasting process, the victim attempted to identify the exact location of the band of non-specification rock.

The accident occurred due to management's lack of procedures and controls to prevent ground conditions from creating a hazard of falling rocks before work or travel was permitted in the affected area. The victim was working close to the face of a highwall taking rock samples. Additionally, he did not receive newly hired experienced miner training when he was hired.





# Root Causes

**Root Cause:** Management did not have procedures and controls in place to prevent ground conditions from creating a hazard of falling rocks before work or travel was permitted in the affected area. Miners were not trained in these procedures and controls before working in these areas. The victim was working close to the face of a highwall taking rock samples.

**Corrective Action:** Management established new procedures and controls to collect rock samples from drill shavings, eliminating the need for persons to take samples near highwalls. All persons required to take rock samples were instructed in these new policies and procedures. Additionally, management provided extensive training to all persons regarding working near highwalls.

**Root Cause:** Management did not provide required newly hired experienced miner training to the victim when he was hired.

**Corrective Action:** Management will provide newly hired experienced miner training as required to any newly hired miners requiring this type of training.

# Best Practices

- Establish and discuss safe work procedures for working near highwalls. Identify and control all hazards.
- Train all persons to recognize adverse conditions and environmental factors that can decrease highwall stability and understand safe job procedures to eliminate all hazards before beginning work.
- Look, Listen and Evaluate pit and highwall conditions daily, especially after each rain, freeze, or thaw.
- Remove loose or overhanging material from the face. Correct hazardous conditions by working from a safe location.
- Ensure that work or travel areas and equipment are a safe distance from the toe of the highwall.