

MNM Fatal 2013-08

- Powered Haulage Accident
- June 2, 2013 (Nevada)
- Underground Gold Mine
- Load Haul Dump Operator
- 43 years old
- 2 years, 18 weeks of experience

Overview

The victim was killed when the LHD he was operating overtraveled the edge of a stope and fell approximately 40 feet into an open hole. He was assigned to build a berm, using cemented rock fill material (CRF), in front of the open stope. He used the LHD to pick up a bucket full of CRF and traveled around a 128 degree left hand turn when the LHD went into the open hole.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure that the established standard operating procedures to provide a safe work area near the stope were being followed by persons performing the work. Persons were not protected from overtravel while operating equipment near the open stope. Visual markers, used to identify the opening, had not been put into place to warn of a hazardous condition. Berms, bumper blocks, or similar impeding devices were not provided at the edge of the open stope where there was a hazard of overtravel.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Management failed to ensure that the established standard operating procedures to provide a safe work area near the stope were being followed by persons performing the work. A bumper block or similar impeding device was not used while the berm was being constructed at the open hole in the stope. Visual open hole streamers or reflective poles were not in place to identify the location of the opening. Streamers from a previous blast cycle had been left in place; however, they were 18 feet from the leading edge of the opening.

Corrective Action: Management reviewed the standard operating procedures for backfilling open stopes. The standard operating procedures have been modified to ensure that "Danger Open Hole" signs and streamers are posted ten feet from the edge of an open stope. CRF berms will be installed using remote equipment or a bumper block will be in place until a CRF berm is constructed and allowed to cure. All of the miners were trained regarding these new standard operating procedures.

Best Practices

- Establish policies and procedures for conducting specific tasks.
- Before beginning any work, ensure that persons are properly task trained and understand the hazards associated with the work to be performed.
- Provide berms, bumper blocks, safety hooks or similar impeding devices at dumping locations where there is a hazard of overtravel or overturning.