

MNM Fatal 2013-15

- Powered Haulage
- November 7, 2013 (Georgia)
- Granite Mine
- Equipment Operator
- 46 years old
- 27 years of experience

Overview

The victim was killed while operating a haul truck that veered off the left side of a haul road and traveled through a berm. The haul truck went over an embankment and rolled on its side into a water filled settling pond.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure that persons could safely operate mobile equipment. Investigators learned through interviews that the victim was drowsy and was found sleeping during his shift; however, he continued to operate mobile equipment. The combination of alcohol and drugs found in the toxicology screening could account for the observed drowsiness displayed by the victim. The victim was not wearing a seat belt.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Management failed to ensure that persons could safely operate mobile equipment. The victim was drowsy and was found sleeping during his shift; however, he continued to operate mobile equipment.

Corrective Action: Management established rules and responsibilities regarding any employee suspected of being impaired while on the job. The rules were explained to all of the employees at the mine.

Best Practices

- Provide and maintain adequate berms or guardrails on the banks of roadways where a drop-off exists.
- Conduct pre-operational checks to identify and correct any defects that may affect the safe operation prior to operating mobile equipment.
- Always wear a seat belt when operating self-propelled mobile equipment.
- Maintain control of self-propelled mobile equipment while it is in motion.
- Operate mobile equipment at speeds consistent with the conditions of roadways, tracks, grades, clearance, visibility, curves, and traffic.
- Stay alert while operating mobile equipment. Ensure traffic rules, signals, and warning signs are posted and obeyed.