

MNM Fatal 2014-04

- Falling/Sliding Material
- March 27, 2014 (Virginia)
- Sand & Gravel Mine
- Manager
- 64 years old
- 32 years of experience

Overview

On March 27, 2014, the victim was seriously injured when he was struck by an 8-inch diameter plastic slurry pipe that was being moved with an excavator. The victim was standing near the excavator when the unsecured pipe fell from the excavator bucket and struck him. The victim was hospitalized and died on March 30, 2014, as a result of his injuries.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to establish procedures to ensure the slurry pipe was secured before it was moved. The victim had not received adequate task training in safe operating procedures related to the assigned task as required. Additionally, the victim was not wearing a suitable hard hat in an area where falling objects created a hazard.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Management failed to establish procedures to ensure that persons could move the slurry pipe from place to place in a safe manner and failed to provide miners with adequate task training in safe operating procedures. During the process of moving the slurry pipe, it was not secured. The victim did not wear a hard hat in an area where falling objects created a hazard.

Corrective Action: Management developed written procedures to ensure that persons are protected when slurry pipes are moved. The procedures require that a suitable choker cable is used to secure the pipe and that persons stay clear of suspended loads and wear hard hats in areas where falling objects create a hazard. All persons were trained in these new procedures.

Best Practices

- Establish and discuss safe work procedures before beginning work. Identify and control all hazards associated with the work to be performed and the methods to properly protect persons.
- Task train all persons to recognize all potential hazardous conditions and to understand safe job procedures for elimination of the hazards before beginning work.
- Wear suitable hard hats where falling objects may create a hazard.
- Stay clear of a suspended load.
- Attach taglines to loads that may require steadying or guidance while suspended.
- Implement measures to ensure persons are properly positioned and protected from hazards while performing a task.
- Monitor persons routinely to determine safe work procedures are followed.