

MNM Fatal 2014-05/06

- Fall of Rib
- April 11, 2014 (Missouri)
- Underground Limestone Mine
- Utility/Boom Operator
- 53 years old
- 8 years of experience
- Utility/Boom Operator
- 29 years old
- 7 years of experience

Overview

Two miners were killed when a section of rock fell from a rib and struck an outrigger on a boom truck. The miners were working in the 120 bench top area using scaling bars to manually scale a pillar while standing in a man basket on a Hi-Ranger boom mounted to the back of an International truck. The miners were approximately 38 feet above the mine floor. Approximately 25 tons of material fell with about 2½ to 5 tons of the material striking the outrigger.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure that persons perform the task of scaling the roof and ribs from a safe location. The boom truck was positioned where it could be struck by falling material.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Management did not ensure that persons scaled the roof and ribs from a location that would not expose them to falling material.

Corrective Actions: The mine operator developed a new procedure for the setup of the scaling rig utilizing a berm and set distance of operation. Miners conducting scaling tasks were trained in the new procedures.

Best Practices

- Establish safe work procedures and train all persons to recognize and understand these procedures.
- 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.
- Always examine, sound, and test for loose ground in areas before starting to work, after blasting, and as ground conditions warrant.
- Always wear fall protection where there is a danger of falling.
- Scale loose material from a safe position and location.
- Test for loose material frequently during work activities.
- Install ground support in roof and ribs where conditions warrant.
- Use equipment with a reach that reduces the possibility of the equipment being struck by falling material.
- Position equipment to keep outriggers and boom from being struck by falling material.