

MNM Fatal 2014-10

- Machinery
- April 28, 2014 (Nevada)
- Underground Gold Mine
- Miner
- 53 years old
- 32 years of experience

Overview

The victim was killed when he became entangled in a 6-foot drill steel of a jackleg drill. He had been drilling blast holes in the face of the stope, preparing for a production blast in the No. 8-4540 south stope. A coworker found the victim's coveralls entangled in the drill steel approximately 15 feet 6 inches away from the face. The jackleg drill was still operating when he was found.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure procedures were established to provide that the victim's workplace was kept clean and orderly. The stope contained large rocks, air and water hoses, drill steels, and an oil container, exposing the victim to slip, trip, and fall hazards as he moved about while drilling.

Overview

Management also failed to ensure that procedures were established to provide secure footing in the workplace where the accident occurred. The floor of the stope was strewn with loose rock and other items which did not provide secure footing for the victim or the drill. Secure footing is needed to keep the leg of the drill from moving or sliding while in operation.

Additionally, the victim was assigned or allowed to work alone in the No. 8-4540 south stope where he could not be seen or his cries for help could be heard by another miner. There were no other miners working in the immediate area.



Root Cause

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Corrective Action:

Management abandoned the No. 8-4540 south stope and bolted an eight foot high chain link metal fencing from rib to rib and posted the heading as "inactive, keep out". Additionally, management updated the jackleg drilling SOP and reviewed the SOP with the jackleg operators.

Best Practices

- Ensure that persons are trained, including task training, to understand the hazards associated with the work being performed.
- Establish and discuss safe work procedures before beginning work. Identify and control all hazards associated with the work to be performed and use methods to properly protect persons.
- Conduct work place examinations before beginning any work.
- Do not place yourself in a position that will expose you to hazards while performing a task.
- Stop the drill rotation when performing tasks near the rotating steel.
- Provide safe routing of hoses and cables so they are not close to the rotation of the drill.
- Do not assign a person to work alone in areas where hazardous conditions exist that would endanger his or her safety.
- Do not wear loose fitting clothing when working around drilling machinery.
- Keep work areas clean and free of tripping hazards.