

# **MNM Fatal 2014-11**

- Powered Haulage
- May 1, 2014 (Nevada)
- Gypsum Mine
- Co-owner
- 57 years old
- 7 weeks of experience

# Overview

The victim was killed when the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) he was operating rolled over. He was using the ATV to transport warning signs for installation around the perimeter of the mine. Hill drove up an access roadway, traveling above and out of sight of the mine's actively drilled bench, where he encountered difficult terrain.

Tire marks indicate that he drove the ATV uphill when the vehicle's wheels started to spin and dig into the ground. The victim was unable to continue in the direction he had been going and attempted to turn around. When he backed up, he lost control of the ATV, rolling it side over side at least once before it came to rest. The victim was pinned beneath the front left fender and wheel.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to provide comprehensive task training prior to a person operating an ATV to ensure the operator could maintain control of the vehicle at all times. The victim did not have the experience to operate the ATV in difficult terrain and did not complete a training course as recommended by the manufacturer of the ATV.

# Overview

The victim was operating the ATV in two-wheel drive (All Wheel Drive available) on a very steep roadway. He was operating the ATV in climbing and descending grades, attempting to turn on steep grade, and operating on loose terrain even though the ATV manufacturer expressly warns against operating an ATV under these conditions. A combination of these factors contributed to the ATV rolling over onto the victim. Additionally, the victim did not wear a helmet or other protective gear that may have protected him from injuries resulting from the accident.





# Root Cause

Root Cause: Management failed to ensure that the victim, who did not have the experience to operate the ATV in difficult terrain, was provided task training to safely operate the ATV.

Corrective Action: The mine operator submitted a Part 48 training plan that was approved by the District Manager on May 13, 2014. All persons performing work at the mine were provided all required training in accordance with the approved plan. A record of all persons trained was submitted for review to MSHA.

# Best Practices

- Ensure that persons are trained to understand the hazards associated with the work being performed.
- Ensure that operators are properly task trained before operating mobile equipment they may not be familiar with.
- Maintain operating speeds consistent with road grades and conditions.
- Load equipment and/or supplies properly on mobile equipment to ensure stability during operation.