

# MNM Fatal 2014-13

- Hoisting
- June 2, 2014 (Idaho)
- Underground Silver Mine
- Shaft Repairman
- 36 years old
- 18 years of experience

# Overview

The victim was killed while working in the chippy (personnel) hoist compartment of the Jewell Shaft. The victim and another miner were working in the shaft performing rehabilitation work. Prior to the accident, the victim had tied off his fall protection lanyard to a stationary metal rod (hanging rod) located on the shaft wall behind him. After loading and securing wooden lacing onto the chippy work deck, the hoist operator was given the okay to move the hoist upwards to the surface. However, the victim had not disconnected his lanyard from the hanging rod and when the chippy conveyance moved, he was pulled into the space between the chippy work deck and the shaft wall.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to identify possible hazards and establish safe work procedures associated with performing shaft maintenance work, specifically where miners were to safely tie off their lanyards. A safe procedure for replacing or transporting wooden lacing during shaft maintenance had not been developed or implemented. Material on the chippy work deck affected where the miners could tie off their lanyards while performing shaft maintenance.



# Root Cause

**Root Cause:** Management failed to ensure that a safe procedure for shaft maintenance work. Material on the deck affected where the miners could tie off while performing shaft maintenance. The victim had tied his lanyard off to a stationary metal hanging rod located on the wall of the shaft between the timber sets. When the conveyance was moved, the victim was pulled from the platform he was standing on.

**Corrective Action:** Management developed and implemented procedures for shaft maintenance work. The procedures also address the proper use of fall protection while working from conveyances. The miners involved in the rehabilitation of the shaft were all trained regarding the new procedures.

# Best Practices

- Develop and implement a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the safe operation of hoists. Post these procedures near the hoist control panels in a conspicuous location.
- 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.
- Train all persons to understand the hazards involved in hoisting operations.
- Ensure that an adequate delay time is provided between the activation of visual and/or audible alarms and the movement of the hoist to warn persons to stay clear of impending movement.
- Communicate work activities prior to beginning a task and maintain communications throughout the shift.
- Conduct thorough examinations of all hoisting equipment and safety mechanisms on a daily basis. Ensure that persons conducting these examinations are trained adequately. Correct any deficiencies identified immediately.