

MNM Fatal 2014-19

- Powered Haulage
- September 26, 2014 (Texas)
- Underground Salt Mine (Surface)
- Mechanic
- 55 years old
- 1 year and 49 weeks of experience

Overview

The victim was killed while performing maintenance on a forklift in a mill building. He was adjusting the directional solenoid on the transmission from the ground when the forklift began to move forward, pinning him between a wooden support pillar and the forklift's Falling Object Protective Structure (FOPS).

The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure that persons performed repairs and maintenance on a forklift with the power turned off and the equipment blocked against hazardous motion. The forklift's engine was running when the operator left the seat and performed maintenance on the directional solenoid that controls the transmission. Additionally, the parking brake was not set and the wheels were not chocked to prevent movement. The victim was not effectively protected against hazardous motion.



Root Cause

Root Cause: The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure that persons performed repairs and maintenance on a forklift with the power turned off and the equipment blocked against hazardous motion. The unblocked forklift exposed the victim to hazards associated with the potential movement of the machine.

Corrective Action: Management developed safe work procedures for blocking mobile equipment against hazardous motion before persons perform maintenance. Miners were tasked trained to follow these new procedures.

Best Practices

- Conduct a pre-operational check to identify and correct any defects that may affect the safe operation prior to operating mobile equipment. Remove the mobile equipment from service if any defective items are not corrected.
- 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.
- Ensure that persons are trained, including task-training, to address the hazards associated with the work being performed.
- Block and secure equipment against motion before performing maintenance.
- Follow the equipment manufacturers recommended maintenance procedures when performing repairs to machinery.
- Ensure that equipment control switches are in the off position and the brake is set before performing maintenance.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and any hazards that may be present.