

MNM Fatal 2015-06

- Machinery
- March 23, 2015 (Pennsylvania)
- Dimension Sandstone
- Owner / Operator
- 46 years old
- 20 years of experience

Overview

On March 23, 2015, Daniel Acker, Owner/Operator, age 48, was killed while cutting stone on top of a bench using a walk-behind, self-propelled concrete saw. Daniel Acker was positioned between the saw and the ledge, when he tripped and fell. The victim and the saw went over the 4½-foot ledge, resulting in the saw falling on him.

The accident occurred due to the victim's failure to maintain control of the self-propelled concrete saw that he was operating in reverse gear while repositioning to cut stone.



Root Causes

The investigators conducted a root cause analysis and identified the following root cause:

Root Cause: The victim failed to maintain control of the self-propelled concrete saw that he was operating in reverse gear while repositioning to cut stone. No procedures were in place for persons to safely operate the walk-behind, self-propelled concrete saw on an elevated bench.

Corrective Action: The victim was a sole proprietor and; therefore, the business terminated at the time of his death. Consequently, no corrective action was taken.

Best Practices

- Identify all hazards and use appropriate controls to protect miners prior to conducting any work.
- Ensure that operators are in a safe position and have control of their equipment at all times.
- Keep workplaces free of tripping hazards.
- Use barricades or railings at edges of drop-offs where persons are in danger of falling.
- Equip walk behind masonry saws with automatic shut off devices to stop the engine if the operator cannot maintain control of the equipment.
- Design bench top stone cutting patterns to ensure the saw operator is not positioned between the saw and the drop off edge.