

# MNM Fatal 2015-7

- Powered Haulage
- May 28, 2015 (Nevada)
- Gold Ore
- Truck Driver
- 61 years old
- 2 years of experience

# Overview

David D. Martinez, truck driver, age 61, was fatally injured on May 28, 2015, when a Komatsu 730E water truck struck a portable toilet that he was using. Martinez went to assist the driver of another water truck already parked at the lower water pipe stand area. When Martinez arrived in his water truck, he parked facing the other water truck. As the other water truck departed the area, the driver turned his truck to avoid hitting Martinez's truck and did not notice that he had struck the portable toilets, where Martinez was located.

The accident occurred due to management's inadequate policies and procedures to ensure the truck driver maintained control of his truck and to place the portable toilet facility in a location where it was compatible with the mining operation and would not be struck by mobile equipment.



# Root Causes

A root cause analysis was performed and two root causes were identified:

- Root Cause: Management policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that drivers maintained control of mobile equipment. The truck's tire struck the portable toilet without the driver noticing.
- Corrective Action: Management implemented policies and procedures to ensure truck drivers operate mobile equipment safely without striking other objects. Truck drivers were trained on hazards the machine can cause when in and around other equipment and personnel.

# Root Causes (conti.)

- Root Cause: Management policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to place the portable toilet facility in a location where it was compatible with the mining operation and would not be struck by mobile equipment. There was a berm constructed on the West side, or behind the portable toilets, to provide protection from the haul road that was heavily traveled. There were no berms for protection against traffic utilizing the water pipe stand area however.
- Corrective Action: Management implemented policies and procedures to ensure proper placement of portable toilets. Berms or other impeding devices were constructed to protect portable toilets from vehicular traffic.

# Best Practices

- Locate portable toilet facilities in areas inaccessible to mobile equipment. Always be aware of equipment operating in close proximity to your area.
- Ensure that all persons are clear before moving equipment.
- Sound your horn to warn persons prior to moving mobile equipment and wait a few moments to give them time to get to a safe location.
- Communicate with mobile equipment operators before getting on or off of equipment and ensure they acknowledge your presence.
- Establish rules and use signs or signals warning of hazards at locations where pedestrians and mobile equipment are both performing tasks.