

MNM Fatal 2015-14

- Powered Haulage
- August 03, 2015 (Nevada)
- Underground Gold Mine
- Jumbo Drill Operator
- 26 years old
- 4 weeks of experience

Overview

On August 3, 2015, Jason Potter, miner, age 26, was tramming a jumbo rock drill in reverse up a slope when a 13 ½ foot long drill steel came in contact with the rib wall and sprang back striking and killing the victim. The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure that loading and transporting of materials were done in a safe manner.



Root Causes

A root cause analysis was conducted and the following causal factors were identified.

Root Cause: Management's policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that persons loaded and transported materials in a safe manner. The drill steel was transported on top of the jumbo drill and was allowed to extend 2.5 feet beyond the leading edge of the drill. Additionally, the drill steel was not secured in a manner that prevented the drill steel from sliding side to side. This caused the drill steel to strike the rib and then strike the miner.

Corrective Action: Management conducted training for all persons regarding the safe loading and transporting of materials.

Best Practices

- When mobile equipment is equipped with seat belts they should be worn at all times when operating that equipment.
- Loads on mobile equipment shall be properly secured and positioned safely prior to moving equipment.
- Miners should operate mobile equipment at speeds consistent with the type of equipment, roadway conditions, grades, clearances, visibility, and other traffic that allow them to maintain control at all times. Maintain all roadways free of materials that may pose a hazard to equipment operators. This includes materials on the floor and protruding from the ribs, back, or walls.
- Keep mobile equipment operator's stations free of materials that can impair the safe operation of the equipment. Ensure that equipment controls are maintained and function as designed.