

MNM Fatal 2015-17

- Power Haulage
- December 28, 2015 (Nevada)
- Gold Ore
- Equipment Operator
- 42 years old
- 3 years of experience

Overview

On December 28, 2015, Douglas Paul Hicks, Haul Truck Operator, age 42, was killed while attempting to access a common parking area referred to as the Area 34 road rock pad (rock pad). The rock pad and access road were completely covered with snow and ice and extremely slippery. Hicks lost control of his haul truck while trying to climb an incline portion of an access road to the rock pad and slid back down until the road leveled off. A second haul truck entered the area, lost control, and slid back down the incline. The tail section of the second truck collided with Hick's haul truck. A third haul truck entered the area, also lost control, and slid back down the incline colliding with the second haul truck, pushing the tail section further into Hick's haul truck.

The accident occurred because the haul truck operators failed to maintain control of their individual pieces of mobile equipment. There were no signs posted at the entrances of the rock pad to warn mobile equipment operators of potentially hazardous conditions that would affect their ability to negotiate the area safely. Finally, management failed to adequately examine the rock pad for conditions that adversely affected the miners who were accessing this parking area.



2015/12/28

Best Practices

- Maintain control of equipment at all times, making allowances for prevailing conditions (low visibility, inclement weather, etc).
- Haulage roads should be examined for hazardous conditions prior to permitting equipment access and especially when conditions change due to snow, ice, or water. Communicate hazardous conditions to other persons using the haulage road.
- Keep roadways clear and safe for travel. Remove snow and ice which may cause loss of traction for equipment along roadways.
- Train all employees on proper work procedures, hazard recognition and avoidance.
- Observe all speed limits, traffic rules, and ensure that grades on haulage roads are appropriate for haulage equipment being used.
- Maintain appropriate distance between vehicles to allow for corrective action.
- On snow covered steep grades, consider the use of chains for better traction while stopping or climbing.