

MNM Fatal 2016-12

- Powered Haulage
- September 8, 2016 (North Carolina)
- Crushed & Broken Granite Mine
- Haul Truck Driver
- 58 years old
- 23 years of experience

Overview

Richard Smith, a 58-year old Haul Truck Operator, was fatally injured on September 8, 2016. The victim was operating a Caterpillar 773E haul truck and was returning to the pit for loading when the truck, traveling down a 9% grade, veered from the right to the left side of the haul road and traveled over the berm at the top of the highwall. The truck landed upside down approximately 201 feet below.

The accident occurred because the mine operator failed to ensure the victim maintained control of the truck and did not ensure seat belts were being used properly.



Best Practices

- Always wear a seat belt when operating a haul truck or mobile equipment.
- Conduct thorough, in depth task training to cover potential hazards.
- Monitor employees regularly to ensure seat belts are worn when operating mobile equipment.
- Emphasize that improperly worn seat belts can NOT provide the proper restraint to necessary to protect equipment operators in hazardous situations.
- Conduct pre-operational checks to identify defects that may affect the safe operation of equipment before being placed into service.
- Observe all speed limits, traffic rules, and ensure that grades on haulage roads are appropriate for haulage equipment being used.
- Maintain control and stay alert when operating mobile equipment.
- Provide and maintain adequate berms and other barriers of mid-axle height.
- Perform safety inspections that include braking systems and seat belts before operating equipment; promptly remove equipment from service if defects affecting safety are found.