

MNM Fatal 2004 - 02

- Falling Material Accident (New Mexico)
- January 30, 2004
- Sand and Gravel Operation
- Plant Manager
- 60 years old
- 40 years experience

Overview

- Setting up a portable plant.
- Metal bulkhead plate, 15 feet wide by 8 feet high, had been placed in a near vertical position as a barrier between the dump ramp and scalper.
- Victim was twisting a retaining cable attached to the unanchored plate to remove slack when the plate fell, striking him.



Timbers used to
support plate so it
Would not hit the plant.

15' x 8' x 1" plate

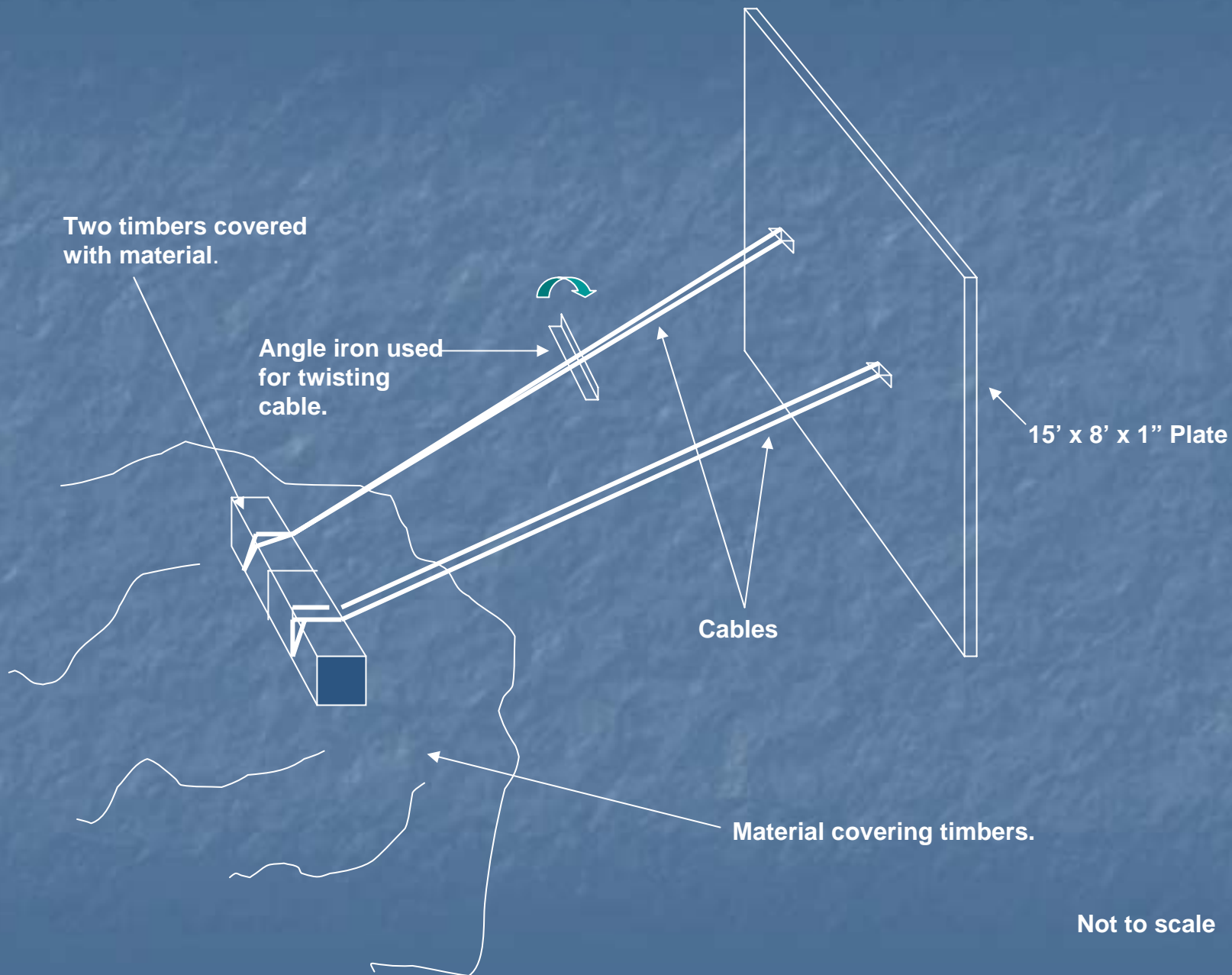


Eye plate where
the cable was
looped through
and attached to
anchor.

2" x 1 1/2" angle iron used to twist cable to bring up the slack.

Why Did Accident Occur?

- Plate was resting on its edge leaning against plant.
- No steps taken to block or secure plate.
- Victim positioned himself in fall zone of plate.



Causal Factors

- No risk analysis conducted.
- Bulkhead plate not secured or blocked to prevent it from falling.
- Victim positioned himself in an unsafe location.

Correct setup showing back plate supported with welded side plates.



Side plate (wing)
welded to back
plate.

Back plate to keep material from going under the plant.

Side plate (wing) to help support back plate and material

Best Practices

- Follow established safe work procedures.
- Position employees to prevent them from being exposed to hazards.
- Examine work areas during the shift for hazards that may be created as a result of the work being performed.
- Before any work starts, anchor any material that has the potential to fall.