

MNMM Fatal 2004-16

- Slip or Fall of Person
- August 21, 2004 (Oregon)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Superintendent
- 63 years old
- 47 years experience

Overview

- The victim was attempting to install a new conveyor belt on an elevated conveyor. He was standing on a conveyor leg cross beam 12 feet off the ground. The victim was pulling on a rope tied to the new belt when the rope unexpectedly came loose, causing him to fall.



Victim was
Standing here.

08/23/2004



Belt being pulled

Rope was
attached here

08/21/2004

Why Did Accident Occur?

- No safe work procedures were in place to protect persons installing a new conveyor belt on an elevated conveyor. The victim was working at an elevated position without wearing fall protection where there was a danger of falling.



New safety harness with
dual shock lanyards
hanging in control room.

08/21/2004

Causal Factors

- A risk assessment was not conducted with the crew prior to starting replacement of the conveyor belt. No steps were taken to identify possible hazards. Controls were not in place to protect persons installing a new conveyor belt on an elevated conveyor.

Causal Factors

- Policies and controls were inadequate and failed to implement work procedures to ensure persons wear fall protection when working at elevated positions. The three man crew had not taken safety belts and lines to the location where they were working.

Causal Factors

- The rope was not properly attached to the device installed on the end of the new conveyor belt. As the belt was being pulled by the victim, the connection failed.

Best Practices

- Miners need to discuss job tasks and identify any potential hazards (conduct a risk analysis) before performing any work. Identify safe work procedures and take action to eliminate any hazards.
- Train all personnel to recognize fall hazards. Ensure that a safety harness and lanyard are utilized and securely anchored where there is a danger of falling.

Best Practices

- Ensure that the correct tools and equipment for the task are available and used properly.
- Position yourself in a safe location where you are not exposed to hazards.