



**Fatality #24 - December 06, 2004**  
**Fall of Highwall - PA - Sand & Gravel**  
**Kuhl Sand & Gravel Inc. - Kuhl Sand & Gravel Inc.**

**METAL/NONMETAL MINE FATALITY** - On December 6, 2004, a 51-year-old company president with 25 years mining experience was fatally injured at a sand and gravel operation. The victim was operating a front-end loader digging material near the base of a 65 foot highwall. Approximately 550 tons of material sloughed off the highwall and partially buried the loader. The victim was trapped in the cab by the intruding material.



### **Best Practices**

- Ensure that mining methods used will maintain the stability of highwalls or slopes where persons work or travel.
- Ensure that experienced persons conduct examinations of highwalls or slopes to identify loose ground or unstable conditions prior to beginning work and as ground conditions warrant during the work shift.
- Establish policies that prohibit work or travel in areas where hazards from unstable ground have not been corrected.

This is the 24<sup>th</sup> fatality reported in calendar year 2004 in the Metal and Nonmetal mining. As of this date in 2003, there were 25 fatalities reported in these industries. This is the 1st fatality classified as Fall of Highwall in 2004. There were no Fall of Highwall fatalities in the same period in 2003.