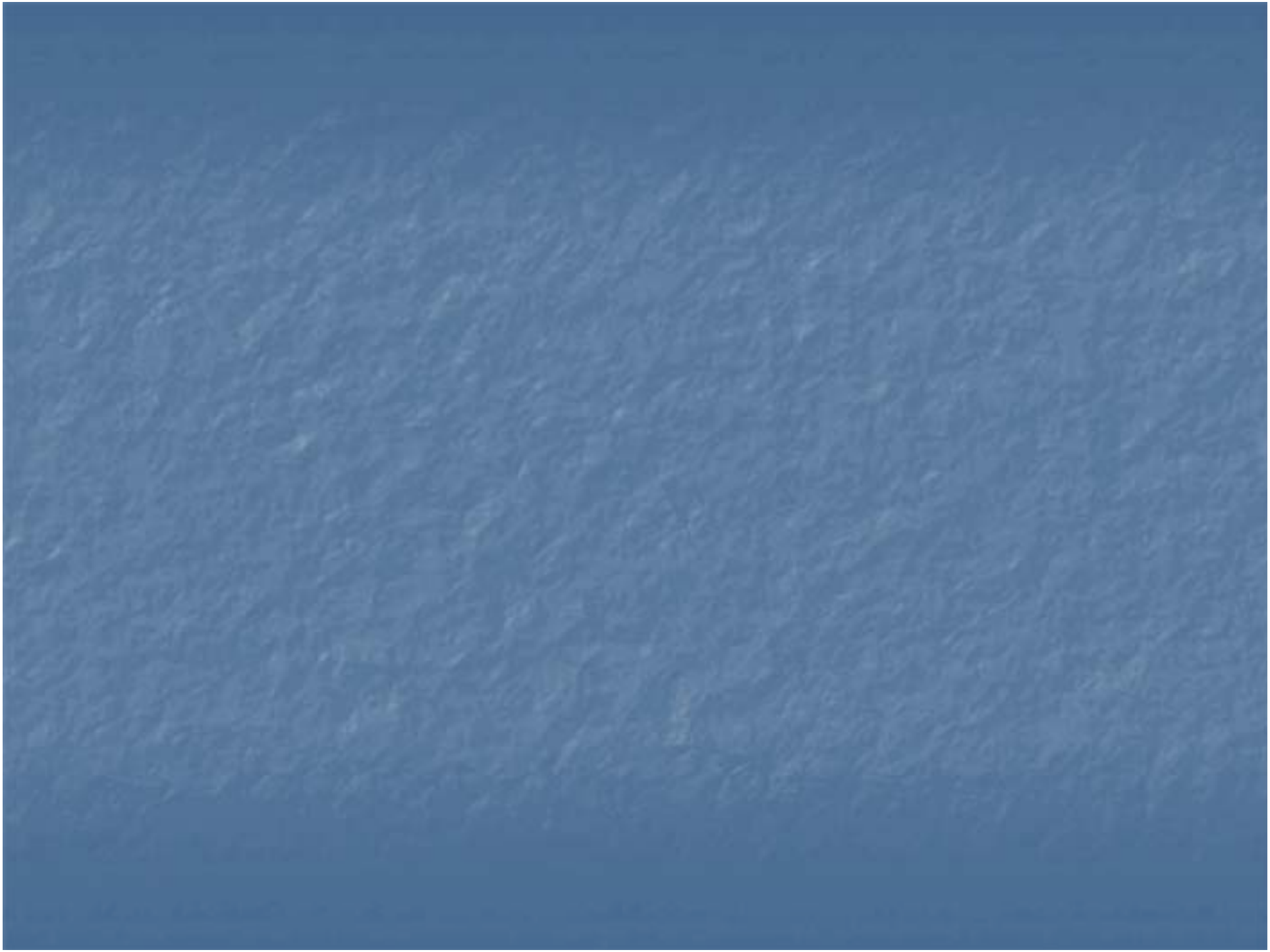
MNM Fatal 2005-10

- Machinery
- April 28, 2005 (Montana)
- Platinum Mine
- Electrician Leadman
- 52 years old
- 30 years mining experience

Overview

- The victim was fatally injured when he was crushed between a set of ventilation air lock doors as they closed. He was working on the power circuit for the doors' control switch, located approximately 15 feet from the doors.



Why Did Accident Occur?

The accident occurred because safe work procedures had not been established and followed before work was performed on the control switch to the air lock doors. The power to the circuit was not de-energized, locked out, or other measures taken to prevent the power circuit from being energized.

Causal Factor

- Management policies and controls were inadequate because lock out/tag out procedures could not be used for all electrical work performed. An electrician had attempted to lock out the circuit breaker for the control switch but the lock issued by management to the electrical crews was not compatible with the electrical panel box. Obvious problems with lock out/tag out of the smaller, residential type panel boxes were apparent because the locks that were issued would not sufficiently fit these smaller boxes. Work practices and policies stated that the doors were to be blocked against motion and all power sources were to be locked out and tagged out.

Best Practices

- Conduct a Risk Assessment and communicate before beginning a task, to evaluate the work procedures, identify all possible hazards, and ensure steps are taken to safely perform the task. Establish procedures to safely complete repair tasks.
- When working near air lock doors, block them and bleed off any stored energy to prevent hazardous movement.

Best Practices

- Ensure that miners are not positioned in areas where they are exposed to hazards resulting from a sudden release of energy.
- Before working on equipment, disconnect power from the circuit, lock out, and tag out the circuit.