

# MNMM Fatal 2005-35

- Exploding Vessels Under Pressure
- November 29, 2005 (New Mexico)
- Copper Operation
- Maintenance Technician
- 42 years old
- 18 months mining experience

# Overview

- The victim was fatally injured when a pump barge pontoon ruptured. When he introduced compressed air into the pontoon to check for leaks, the pontoon failed at a welded joint.



# Causal Factor

- Procedures and controls were inadequate. They failed to address the hazard of using compressed air to check the pontoon for leaks.

# Best Practices

- Stop, Look, Analyze, and Manage (SLAM) each task to identify all potential hazards. Practice safe work habits during the entire task.
- Train miners in safe work procedures before beginning repairs.
- When compressed air is used, take all necessary precautions to protect persons from injury.
- Use alternative methods to locate air leaks.