

MNMM Fatal 2006-22

- Machinery
- October 10, 2006 (Michigan)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Dredge Operator
- 45 years old
- 9 years experience

Overview

The victim drowned when the floating clamshell dredge he was operating capsized.



Root Causes

- Management policies and controls were inadequate. Procedures had not been established to ensure that leaks in the dredge pontoons were repaired. Sump pumps were installed in four leaking pontoon cells. The pumps were plugged into electrical ground fault circuit interrupters (gfcis) which had to be regularly monitored to ensure they were operating.

Root Causes

- Management policies and controls were inadequate. Procedures had not been established for modifying the original design of the dredge. Additional steel plating had been added on the front end of the dredge to support the storage of large boulders encountered while mining. Additional steel plating had also been added to the crusher feed chute.

Root Causes

- Management policies and controls were inadequate. Procedures had not been established to ensure the high dredge overload and full hopper alarm switches were properly positioned and functioning within the specifications set by the manufacturer. The switches were set to permit approximately 1-1/2 inches of freeboard. The dredge was designed for a minimum 12 inches of freeboard to prevent overloading the dredge.

Best Practices

- Always conduct a complete pre-operational check.
- Inspect all supporting structures for defects or cracks.
- On a regular basis, examine and test all safety devices and ensure that they are operating properly.
- Always wear a life jacket where there is a danger of falling into the water.
- Set up a communications schedule with persons working alone.