

MNMM Fatal 2007-12

- Falling Material Accident
- June 12, 2007 (California)
- Granite Operation
- Grade Setter
- 45 years old
- 10 years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured while working on a reclamation project at a waste dump. He stepped into a trench excavated into the side of the slope when a vertical wall collapsed, pinning him between two large pieces of clay.

Front View of the Drain Slot

Rock -36"x 24"x 12"
that pinned victim



Root Cause

Management policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that persons could work safely at the reclamation site. Ground conditions which created a hazard were not taken down or supported before work or travel was permitted.

Best Practices

- Carefully examine ground conditions prior to performing tasks near excavated embankments, trenches or ditches.
- Identify hazards associated with the task to be performed, review those hazards with all personnel involved, and implement measures to ensure persons are properly protected.
- Support trench walls or slope the walls to a safe angle.