

MNMM Fatal 2010-01

- Falling Material Accident
- January 9, 2010 (Arizona)
- Copper Operation
- Contract Laborer
- 20 years old
- 21 weeks of experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when , when a suspended 400-foot long section of 24-inch diameter high density polyethylene pipe fell and struck him. The pipe was being installed into a new pregnant leach solution reservoir.

The accident occurred because contractor management policies and controls were inadequate. A risk assessment to discuss the task and identify possible hazards was not conducted prior to placing the pipe. The procedures failed to ensure that persons stay clear of suspended loads.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Contractor management policies and work procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that persons stay clear of suspended loads.

Corrective Action: The contractor operator amended the written work procedure for moving, installing, and guiding HDPE pipe. When using taglines, persons will remain at least twenty feet away from suspended loads or be protected by equipment or other substantial barriers.

Best Practices

- Task train all persons prior to performing any work.
- Always stay clear of suspended loads.
- Use taglines of sufficient length to adequately protect persons from potential hazards.