

MNM Fatal 2012-04

- Fall of Rib Accident
- March 20, 2012 (Montana)
- Underground Gemstone Mine
- Mine Owner
- 54 years old
- 25 years of experience

Overview

The victim was killed while cleaning fine ore with a shovel and loading it in the bucket of a front-end loader. A rock, about 20 feet high, fell from the top left rib striking him.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to ensure examinations and tests for loose ground conditions are conducted after blasting. Ground conditions that created a hazard were not taken down or supported.



Root Cause

Root Cause: Management failed to establish procedures requiring experienced persons to examine and test ground conditions prior to commencing work after blasting. Management failed to established procedures to correct hazardous conditions or provide ground support where ground conditions indicate it is necessary.

Corrective Actions: The mine owner was killed in the accident and the mine is currently not in production status. No corrective action has been taken. However, before mining operations commence, the mine operator will comply with the requirements of 30 CFR.

Best Practices

- Examine work areas and identify and control all hazards before starting any work.
- Establish safe work procedures and train all persons to recognize and understand these procedures.
- Always examine, sound, and test for loose ground in areas before starting to work, after blasting, and as ground conditions warrant.
- Test for loose material frequently during work activities and where necessary, scale loose material safely.
- Install ground support in roof and ribs where conditions warrant.
- Do not perform work alone in any area where hazardous conditions exist that would endanger your safety.