

MNM Fatal 2015-2

- Hoisting
- January 11, 2015 (Nevada)
- Gold Ore Mine
- Shaft Miner
- 53 years old
- 35 years of experience

Overview

On January 11, 2015, Brian Lee Holmes, Contract Shaft Miner, age 53, was killed while positioned on a work platform on top of a skip. The skip was traveling up a ventilation shaft when Holmes struck a steel beam in the shaft structure.

The accident occurred due to management's failure to identify possible hazards and establish safe procedures associated with persons riding on top of conveyances. Although the mine operator had written procedures for personnel hoisting in the ventilation shaft, the procedures did not address all of the hazards, specifically those associated with persons riding on top of work platforms on a skip.

The speed of the hoist was too fast for the conditions present in the shaft. The hoist's speed did not allow the victim sufficient time to remain clear of the steel beam while the skip was moving. Additionally, the victim's lanyard was not short enough to prevent him from contacting the shaft steel beams while the skip was moving.



01.12.2015

Root Causes

- **Root Cause:** Management failed to establish policies or procedures to protect miners by failing to identify possible hazards. The hoist speed was too fast for the conditions present in the shaft and on the skip at the time of the accident. The victim's lanyard was not short enough to prevent him from contacting the shaft steel beams while the skip was moving.
- **Corrective Action:** The mine operator installed new enclosed cages on top of the skips.
- **Root Cause:** Management failed to establish and train miners on safe procedures for the transportation of persons in conveyances.
- **Corrective Action:** The mine operator developed a new standard operating procedure for the transportation of persons in conveyances and has trained all miners who utilize the modified skips on this new procedure.

Best Practices

- •Train all persons in hazard recognition, awareness of their surroundings, and safe positioning when riding skips.
- •To prevent hazard exposure, require safe positioning for personnel who ride skips.
- •Monitor all persons for safe positioning when riding skips.
- •Place warning signs on skip platforms to remind persons to keep body parts inside the handrails.