

MNMM Fatal 2005-13

- Powered Haulage
- May 31, 2005 (Kentucky)
- Limestone Mine
- Truck Driver
- 55 years old
- One year, six months mining experience

Overview

- The victim was riding in the passenger seat of a haul truck while task training a newly hired miner. The trainee lost control of the truck and traveled through the roadway berm. The truck fell 70 feet to the lower level and landed on its top. The trainee, who was wearing his seat belt, was hospitalized overnight for treatment of his injuries. The victim was not wearing his seat belt.



Why Did Accident Occur?

The accident occurred because the task training procedures for the newly hired miner were inadequate and did not ensure that he could safely operate the haul truck. The trainee operator had no previous experience operating heavy equipment. He had not completed his 40 hour new miner training before being assigned work duties. The operator's manual for the haul truck and other written procedures were available but were not used for task training.

Causal Factor

Policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that employees received training in the health and safety aspects and safe work procedures related to operating mobile equipment. The new miner being trained did not maintain control of the equipment he was operating. Task training at this mine was inadequate because the new miner, who was driving the haul truck, had no previous experience operating mobile equipment. The operator's manual was not part of the task training. There were no records indicating that the miner, who was providing the task training, had received any task training on the operation of this model haul truck.

Best Practices

- Ensure that new miners receive Task Training and demonstrate proficiency in all phases of mobile equipment operation at places where production is not the primary objective. Classroom training that includes a thorough review of the Operator's Manual should be provided prior to operating mobile equipment.
- Ensure that experienced miners who administer Task Training are knowledgeable of all safety requirements, proficient in the safe operation of the equipment, and utilize all the required personal protective equipment.

Best Practices

- Exercise caution and operate mobile equipment in the appropriate gear at speeds consistent with conditions of the roadway and the experience level of the trainee.
- Ensure adequate pre-operational checks are conducted and the service brakes are properly maintained and will stop and hold the mobile equipment prior to operating it.