

MNMM Fatal 2006-13

- Machinery
- May 26, 2006 (Florida)
- Phosphate Operation
- Dozer Operator
- 58 years old
- 12 years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when the dozer he was operating fell into a water filled pit. He had been pushing the top layer of dirt and vegetation from reclaim piles into adjacent water filled ponds.



Root Cause

Management's policies and controls were inadequate and failed to require a person experienced in examining ground conditions to examine the edge of the ponds. Procedures were not developed to safely complete the task. The mine operator did not ensure that the contractor had established safe procedures for pushing top soil into the ponds. Management failed to complete a risk assessment to identify possible hazards and they failed to communicate to the miners the safety aspects and safe working procedures relating to the task they were assigned. Procedures were not in place to identify possible alcohol use during the work shift.

Best Practices

- Stop, Look, Analyze, and Manage, SLAM each task to identify all potential hazards. Initiate action to protect yourself when performing every task.
- Evaluate the stability of the ground prior to operating equipment near any drop off or edge.
- Use equipment (excavator) that can perform the work from a safe distance away from the edge of a pond where the stability of the ground may be unknown.

Best Practices

- Require that flotation devices be worn by persons performing work where there is a danger of falling in the water.
- When dozing toward a highwall edge, constantly examine the ground surface for development of cracks or fissures indicating separation, push perpendicular to the highwall face, and always keep a full blade in front of you.
- When dozing soft or unconsolidated material, be aware of changes in the feel of the footing under you and immediately back out of material that feels like it is softening up.