

MNMM Fatal 2007-19

- Fall of Person Accident
- July 29, 2007 (Tennessee)
- Zinc Operation
- Contract Miner/Driller
- 29 years old
- 3 years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured while working from the top of a shaft conveyance (cage) in the main shaft compartment. The victim and a coworker were positioned on a beam removing concrete from steel shaft sets. One end of the beam broke loose and both men fell. They were wearing fall protection but the victim's lanyard was not secured and he fell approximately 1,000 feet to the shaft bottom.



Causal Factors

- Management policies and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that persons could safely work at elevated positions where there was a danger of falling. Management failed to conduct an assessment of the risk when performing these tasks and had not identified procedures to ensure the work could be completed safely.
- Management policies and work procedures failed to ensure that fall protection was properly used by persons working where there was a danger of falling.

Best Practices

- Ensure workers are trained and understand that safety lanyards are not permitted to be unfastened while working at elevated locations.
- Provide self retracting lanyard mechanisms when workers are required to reposition themselves to perform tasks.
- Ensure safety lanyards are securely fastened at all times when workers are positioned at elevated locations.