

MNMM Fatal 2007-20

- Fall of Ground Accident
- July 30, 2007 (Montana)
- Copper Operation
- Underground Mechanic
- 55 years old
- 2 years 10 months experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when a fall of ground occurred, entrapping him in the cab of a service truck. He had completed repairs to a roof bolter and was waiting for another truck to move when three separate falls of ground occurred. The first fall covered the bed of his truck, the second covered the cab, and the third covered the remainder of the truck.



Causal Factors

- Management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and did not ensure that persons were protected from fall of ground hazards where they worked or traveled. Management failed to follow the ground support plan they had established and did not require additional ground support to be installed in the location where the fault existed.
- Management failed to address adverse ground conditions identified and reported during work place examinations. Persons conducting the examinations failed to require additional roof support materials be installed to control the ground where the fault was visible.

Best Practices

- Design, install, and maintain a support system to control ground in places where persons work or travel.
- Examine and test ground conditions where persons work or travel.
- Promptly initiate action to install additional support when ground faults are identified.
- Install barriers to impede entry when ground conditions may create a hazard.