

MNMM Fatal 2007-29

- Fall of Person Accident
- October 25, 2007 (California)
- Cement Operation
- Iron Worker Helper (Contractor)
- 19 years old
- 20 weeks experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when he stepped on wooden planking covering an opening on the coal mill tower deck. The planking gave way and he fell through the hole 57 feet to the ground below. The victim and two co-workers were attempting to line up an air receiver tank for a dust collector on the fifth level of the tower.



Causal Factors

- Contractor management policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that persons could safely work on the deck of the fifth level of the coal mill tower. The wooden platform covering the opening was not substantially constructed and maintained in good condition.
- Contractor management policies and work procedures failed to ensure that fall protection was properly used by persons where there was a danger of falling.
- Contractor management policies and work procedures failed to ensure that persons were aware of safety hazards not immediately obvious. No barricades or warning signs were posted at the approaches to the opening on the deck.

Best Practices

- Ensure that floor openings are protected by railings, barriers, or covers that are properly constructed, installed securely, and maintained to control all hazards.
- Ensure that areas are barricaded or have warning signs posted at all approaches if hazards exist that are not immediately obvious.
- Examine your work places for all possible hazards and correct them before you perform work.
- Remember and use SLAM: Stop, Look, Analyze, and Manage.