

# MNMM Fatal 2004-08

- Slip or Fall of Person Accident
- April 16, 2004 (Texas)
- Cement
- Truck Driver
- 74 years old
- 50 years experience

# Overview

- A truck driver drove his bulk tank trailer to the approach of a bulk cement silo.
- He used a pneumatically powered gangway and four rail safety cage to access the top of his trailer.
- He attempted to open a hatch cover on the top of a bulk tank trailer but the cover would not open because it caught the bottom two rails of the safety cage.
- He was unable to retract the gangway and cage pneumatically.
- The driver used a pry bar to pull the cage away from the cover. When the cover was freed, the gangway and cage moved rapidly to the retracted position, causing him to fall to the ground.

This truck was involved in the accident. Note the fold down stairs/railings that can be seen in front and above the truck beyond the red flagging tape. The victim was found directly below the fold down stairs w/protective cage.





This picture illustrates the fold down cage provided for the truck drivers to protect them from falling while accessing the hatch at the top of the trailers. The victim fell between the rails and the trailer to the ground.



# Why Did Accident Occur?

- The trailer was not properly aligned with the access platform.
- The hatch cover became lodged in the bottom rails of the safety cage.
- Apparently, the truck driver was unaware of the hazards associated with the pneumatically controlled gangway when he attempted to manually free the cover from the cage.

# Causal Factors

- The bulk tank trailer was improperly positioned at the access platform causing the trailer's hatch cover to become lodged in the bottom rails of the safety cage.
- The truck driver was not familiar with all of the operating features of the air powered gangway control lever. He was unaware that the air cylinders were charged when he pried the cover from the safety cage rails.



# Best Practices

- Establish traffic patterns that ensure safe alignment of vehicles with access equipment.
- Establish operating procedures for customers to safely perform tasks.
- Post these procedures in a prominent place for customers to review.
- Train customers in the established procedures.
- Monitor customers to ensure that procedures are followed.
- Customers---Notify mine management when any problems are encountered with machinery or equipment.