

MNMM Fatal 2008-05

- Machinery Accident
- February 25, 2008 (Wisconsin)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Dredge Operator
- 62 years old
- 12 years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when the track-mounted excavator he was operating broke through ice covering a water-filled ditch. He was using the excavator to free a dragline frozen to the ice-covered pit floor.



Causal Factor

Management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that persons could safely perform tasks when working in ice conditions on the pit floor.

Best Practices

- When conditions change, examine travelways to evaluate hazards. If the safety of travelways can't be positively determined, do not travel on them.
- In locations where travelways are not clearly distinguishable, install barriers, markers, or other warning devices to aid equipment operators, limit travel of mobile equipment, and inform mobile equipment operators of potential hazards.
- Stop, Look, Analyze, and Manage, SLAM each task to identify all potential hazards. Initiate action to protect yourself when performing every task.
- Wear seat belts when operating self-propelled mobile equipment.