

MNMM Fatal 2008-11

- Fall of Back Accident
- May 31, 2008 (New York)
- Zinc Operation
- Driller
- 40 years old
- 2 years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when a large rock fell and struck him. He and a coworker were drilling a round at the face in a vent drift. The victim was attempting to retrieve a drill bit from a hole at the face when the rock fell from the back. The other miner was on the outby side of the drift and was not injured.



Root Causes

- Ground support was not installed in the vent drift on the 2100 level.
- Management policies, procedures, and controls were not being followed. Specifically, the ground was not supported in the vent drift on the 2100 level as specified by the company's ground support policy to protect persons where they worked or traveled.

Best Practices

- Examine and test ground conditions in areas where work is to be performed prior to work commencing and as ground conditions warrant during the shift.
- When ground conditions create a hazard to persons, install ground support before other work is permitted in the affected area.
- Be alert to any change of ground conditions.
- Identify and scale loose ground from a location which will not expose persons to falling material.