

MNMM Fatal 2009-01

- Falling Material Accident
- January 6, 2009 (California)
- Sand & Gravel Operation
- Journeyman Heavy Equipment Operator
- 41 years old
- 3 years, 8 months of experience

Overview

The victim was injured on January 6, 2009, while operating a skid steer loader underneath a belt conveyor that was being dismantled. Two coworkers were in an elevated man lift cutting braces from the leg supports of the belt conveyor support structure. A 12-foot by 4-inch piece of steel box tubing fell into the cab of the skid steer loader as it approached the work area, striking the victim. He was hospitalized and died on January 9, 2009.



The red line shows the original location of the tubing.

Root Cause

Management failed to establish policies and procedures to ensure that persons could safely dismantle the belt conveyor support system. A risk assessment to determine potential hazards and to establish safe work procedures was not conducted prior to performing the task.

Best Practices

- Establish and review procedures to ensure all possible hazards have been identified and appropriate controls are in place to protect persons before beginning work. Discuss procedures with all persons present in the work area.
- Establish policies to ensure that barricades or warning signs are installed to prohibit access and protect persons from falling object hazards.
- Remove all persons from beneath the area where overhead work is being performed.