



# Safety Alert

**FATAL ACCIDENTS  
CAN  
BE PREVENTED**

Four fatalities occurred at MNM mines in the first three months of 2012.



Victim was operating a skid steer loader while cleaning a tailpiece when he lost control and went into deep water hole.



Victim was operating an excavator with a rock breaker when the face of a vertical wall fell onto the cab.



Victim was bolting a snub pulley in position when he fell 16 feet from an elevated walkway to the ground below.



Victim was found approximately 250 feet inside the mine. He was working alone and had been struck by a fall of rib.

**Close call incidents that could have significantly increased the number of fatalities**

- Feb. 2012, 2 miners escape as sliding material from a spoil pile destroys a truck and excavator.
- Jan. 2012, 8 miners overcome by chlorine gas.
- Dec. 2011, 7 miners were injured during a ground fall incident

## Best Practices

- Ensure that persons are task-trained and understand the hazards associated with the work being performed.
- Equipment operators should be familiar with their work environment at all times.
- Operate excavators with the cab and tracks perpendicular to, and away from, the highwall
- Bench or slope the material to maintain stability and to safely accommodate the type of equipment used. Do not undercut material on the face of the slope, bank, or highwall.
- Examine highwalls, slopes, and banks from as many perspectives as possible (bottom, sides, and top/crest) while maintaining the safety of the examiner(s). Look for signs of cracking, bulging, sliding, toppling or other signs of instability. Record the type and location of hazardous conditions.
- Always use fall protection when working where a fall hazard exists
- Establish and discuss safe work procedures. Before starting any work, identify and control all hazards.