

MNM Fatal 2010-19

- Powered Haulage Accident
- October 20, 2010 (Georgia)
- Fuller's Earth (Clay) Operation
- Contract Truck Driver
- 63 years old
- 41 years of experience

Overview

The victim died when he was struck by a trailer that was backing up. He had backed his trailer into one of the loading dock bays at a loading dock at a warehouse to get his truck loaded. He exited the truck to discuss the loading procedures with a forklift operator who was standing in the warehouse. At this time, a spotter truck was backing a partially loaded 53-foot long box trailer into the bay where the victim was standing. He was pinned between the trailer and wall of the loading dock.

The accident occurred because management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and did not protect persons at the loading dock. The bays at the loading dock were not sufficiently illuminated. The loading docks were not monitored to ensure that foot traffic was adequately controlled. Site-specific hazard training was not effectively provided to the truck drivers. Consequently, they were not made aware of specific mine hazards.



Root Causes

Root Cause: Management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that sufficient illumination was being provided at the loading dock.

Corrective Action: Management established procedures to have workplace examinations conducted of the outside areas of the buildings to ensure proper illumination is provided and maintained.

Root Cause: Management failed to ensure that the written site-specific hazard training plan for over the road truck drivers was being followed. Over the road truck drivers were not aware of the specific hazards and rules at the mine.

Corrective Action: Management established procedures to monitor and properly implement the site-specific hazard training plan for over the road truck drivers. These procedures will ensure that all persons are protected.

Best Practices

- Establish a control policy that includes signs directing all truck drivers to report to a designated office clear of the dock and truck travel areas when dropping or picking up loads.
- Train all persons to recognize work place hazards and to stay clear of normal paths of travel of mobile equipment.
- Provide a clearly marked, safe area for pedestrian access to the facility. Clearly mark areas that are unsafe for pedestrian access and prevent entry into those areas.
- Ensure that illumination is sufficient at the work site.
- Before moving mobile equipment, look in the direction of travel, use all mirrors, cameras, backup alarms, and installed proximity detection devices to ensure no one is in the intended path.
- Sound the horn to warn persons of movement and wait to give them time to get to a safe location.
- Communicate with mobile equipment operators and ensure they acknowledge your presence.
- Wear high visibility clothing when working around mobile equipment.