

# MNMM Fatal 2004-25

- Machinery
- December 9, 2004 (Texas)
- Alumina Plant
- Technician/Operator
- 46 years old
- 26 years experience

# Overview

- The victim was standing outside an open access door attempting to flush material from a slaked lime surge tank. The lime slurry rushed from the tank as the victim was hydro-blasting through crusted material just inside the open door.

**Slaked lime surge tank involved in accident.  
Tank was 30 feet in diameter and 38 feet high.**



The victim was standing in front of this access door located at the bottom center of the lime surge tank.



# Why Did Accident Occur?

- The accident occurred because the mine operator did not ensure that effective procedures were utilized to protect persons from entrapment by materials from within the surge tank. The amount and consistency of material in the surge tank were not determined before the tank access door was removed and the hydro-blasting work began.

# Causal Factor

- Management policies and controls were inadequate and failed to implement safe work procedures to ensure miners were not exposed to entrapment hazards created by material remaining in the slaked lime surge tank.

# Best Practices

- Ensure that tanks, bins, or silos have been thoroughly examined and materials that could be hazardous to personnel have been removed or diverted prior to opening or activating access doors, valves, feeders, or gates.
- Ensure that miners jointly discuss the safe job procedures, identify all possible hazards, and take all precautions to safely perform the task before the work begins.

# Best Practices

- Ensure that miners are not required to work where they are exposed to entrapment by materials contained in tanks, bins, or silos.