

MNMM Fatal 2008-14

- Machinery Accident
- August 18, 2008 (Pennsylvania)
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Contractor Welder
- 28 years old
- 8 years experience

Overview

The victim was fatally injured when while helping to install a 7,000 pound counterweight on a mine scaler. The chain being used to lift the counterweight failed, causing the counterweight to fall and strike the victim.



Scaler



Counterweight



Root Causes

- A risk assessment to determine potential hazards and to establish safe work procedures was not conducted prior to lifting the 7,000 pound counterweight.
- Management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that the chain, attached connectors, and rigging, were examined prior to lifting the counterweight.
- Management policies, procedures, and controls were inadequate and failed to ensure that proper training regarding lifting suspended loads was provided to all persons before performing the task.

Best Practices

- Establish and discuss safe work procedures. Identify and control all hazards to finish the job safely.
- Train all persons to recognize and understand safe procedures to perform tasks before beginning work.
- Keep all persons clear of suspended loads.
- Use sling or chain assemblies (rigging) specifically intended for lifting and adequately rated for the loads being lifted.
- Carefully inspect all rigging prior to each use.
- Properly attach or rig slings, chains, and hooks.