

MNMM Fatal 2004 - 04

- Slip or Fall of Person (Indiana)
- February 26, 2004
- Crushed Stone Operation
- Maintenance Person
- 47 years old
- Six years experience

Overview

- Maintenance crew was dropping scrap parts through an open door from fourth floor of mill building.
- Barrier railing was removed so an overhead hoist could be used to remove a large piece of pipe.
- Victim lost his balance near edge of opening and fell 56' to the ground.



Opening the victim fell through.

Distance from 4th floor level to ground was 56 ft.



Victim working in this area.

Work area



Why Did Accident Occur?

- Access door opened so small scrap parts could be thrown out.
- Barrier railing was removed so overhead hoist could be used to remove large piece of pipe.
- No fall protection used where there was a danger of persons falling.



Sign located in work area.

This guard removed from door opening.



Causal Factors

- Victim had not taken safety harness and lanyard with him to the work site.
- Barrier railing removed.
- Procedures in place requiring fall protection to be worn when barrier railing was removed were not followed.

Best Practices

- Wear fall protection where there is a danger of falling.
- Conduct a risk analysis before starting a task to identify hazards and implement measures to ensure persons are properly protected.
- Train all personnel to help them recognize potential hazards and understand procedures to safely perform tasks.
- Monitor work tasks to reinforce safe procedures and obtain feedback from employees on the use of fall protection systems to ensure their commitment.