

DMM Safety Alert: Miner Struck By Pipe

On March 27, 2014, a 64-year-old miner with 31 years of mining experience was seriously injured when he was struck in the head by a section of process water pipe as it was being moved by an excavator. Preliminary investigation indicates the pipe was resting unsecured across the curled excavator bucket when it fell off the bucket and struck the miner. The injured miner was transported to a local hospital and died three days after the accident from his injuries. This is the first mine related fatality at a mineral mine in Virginia since August of 2009. To assist mine operators in preventing this type of accident, the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining recommends the following:

- All loads should be adequately secured prior to moving.
- Persons on the ground should remain clear of equipment in operation.
- Equipment operators should be certain that all persons are in the clear prior to moving their equipment.
- All miners should be trained in the proper procedures associated with assigned tasks.

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Accident scene