

FALL-RELATED ACCIDENTS DOMINATE 2004 FATALITIES

From January 1 to August 9, 2004, five miners have been fatally injured in falls at metal and nonmetal mines. Fall of persons account for more than 35% of the 14 fatal injuries to date. Four of the victims fell from elevation: two from the top of truck trailers, another from a screen tower and the other off a 90-foot highwall. No height can really be considered “safe” unless proper fall protection is used.

Failure to use fall protection was the primary contributing factor in the fall-from-elevation fatalities. Fall protection was often readily available, but the victim chose not to use it.

Miners, supervisors, and mine operators should remember that working in areas where fall hazards exist presents serious risks. Take proper precautions before work is performed at any height.



BEST PRACTICES

- **Train all personnel to recognize potential fall hazards and to follow safe work procedures.**
- **Conduct a risk assessment prior to performing a task to identify hazards and to ensure persons are properly protected.**
- **Always wear proper fall protection or use other effective means of fall prevention when working in elevated work areas where a hazard of falling exists.**
- **Monitor employees and contractors to ensure that fall protection is being worn or effective fall prevention is implemented where a hazard of falling exists.**

Safety and Health are Values

U.S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration