

**ST&T Leasing, Inc. (ZJD)  
at  
No. 11 Allen Branch Job  
Apex Energy, Inc.**

Fatal Accident: May 28, 2015



# Overview

- May 28, 2015 Roy Mullins, foreman, age 45 was killed when he was pinned between the frame of a road grader and the front of a loaded tractor-trailer truck.
- The tractor-trailer was transporting the base power module of a highwall mining machine to the mine site.
- The tractor-trailer was unable to ascend the steep incline.

# Overview

- A road grader was driven to the tractor-trailer to provide assistance.
- Mullins was positioned between the two machines connecting a chain.
- The grader rolled back, fatally crushing him.

# Information

Read the section entitled “Discussion” on pages 5-9 of the Accident Investigation report.

# Information

- What type of task training was originally provided?
- Who received the task training?
- Was a workplace examination performed?

# Information

- Did the equipment operators take any precautions to block the equipment against motion?
- In your opinion, what actions did the operators take that might have contributed to the accident?



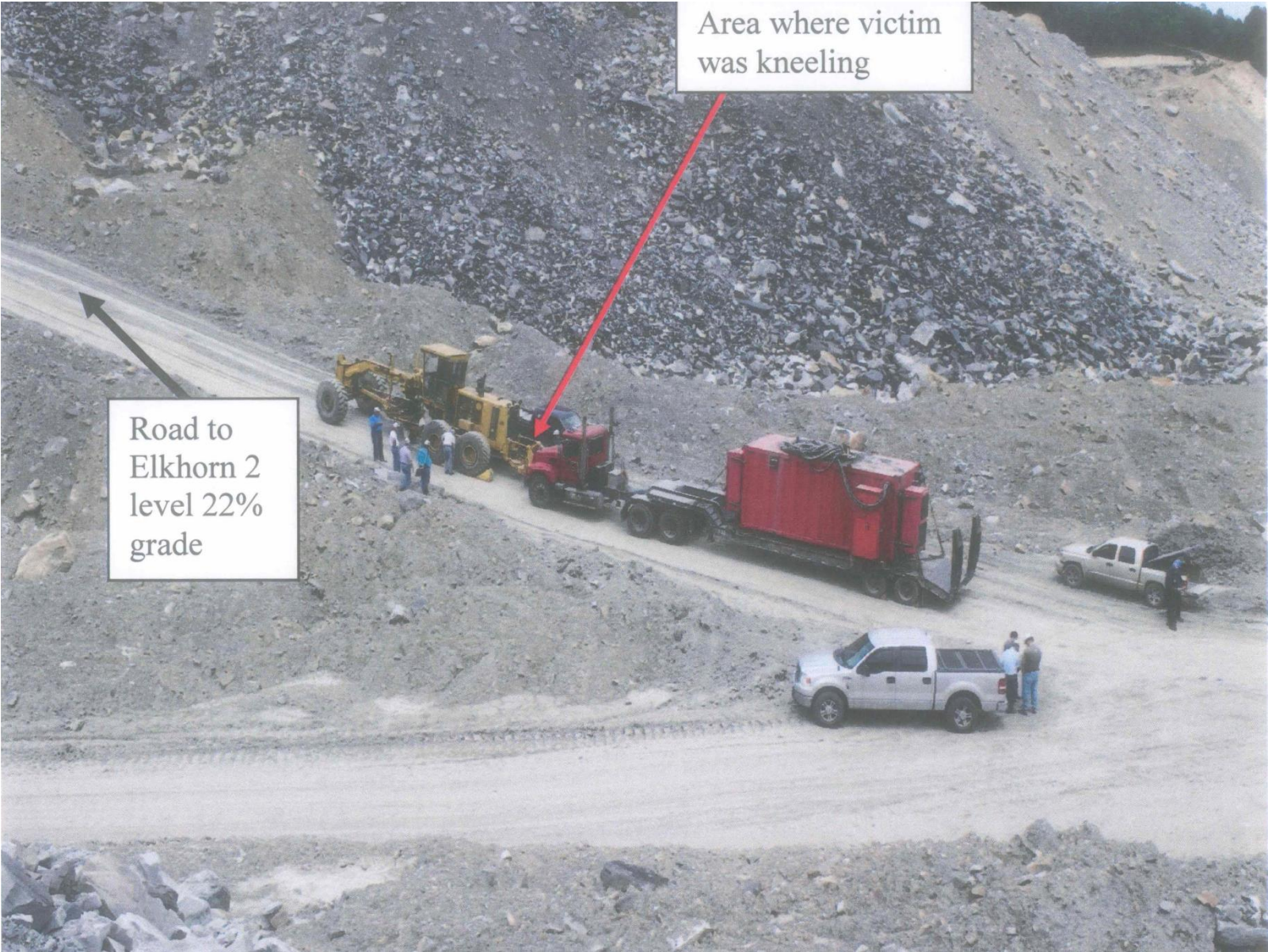


# Accident Cause

What was the cause  
of the accident?

# Basic Causes

- The road was not properly designed to have a grade that could be travelled by the tractor-trailer carrying the base power module.
- The mine operator failed to adequately train all mine employees in proper towing procedures.



Area where victim was kneeling

Road to Elkhorn 2 level 22% grade

# MSHA Root Cause

The mine operator failed to establish policies and procedures to ensure access roads are designed and maintained to allow mobile equipment operators to travel roadways without being towed.

# MSHA Root Cause

The policies and procedures of the mine operator were inadequate to ensure that proper towing procedures and equipment were in place when towing became necessary.

# Accident Prevention

What could have prevented this accident?

# Accident Prevention

Outline proper  
procedure for  
performing this task

# MSHA Best Practices

- Never position yourself between equipment that is not blocked and secured from movement.
- Turn the engine off, place the transmission in gear, set the parking brake, and always ensure equipment is securely blocked against motion, before performing repair or maintenance work, which includes connecting tow bars.



# MSHA Best Practices

- Use a tow bar with adequate length and proper rating when towing heavy equipment. A chain should never be used to tow mobile equipment.
- If mobile equipment must be towed, the equipment should be on level firm ground and secured from movement prior to connecting the equipment.

# MSHA Best Practices

- Ensure miners are adequately trained on proper towing procedures.
- Ensure mobile equipment operators are aware of your location at all times.
- Maintain communications with mobile equipment operators while working in close proximity to equipment. Utilize radios to communicate when visual contact cannot be maintained.

# MSHA Best Practices

- Maintain equipment braking systems in good repair and adjustment. Do not depend on hydraulic systems to hold mobile equipment stationary.
- Conduct pre-operational examinations to identify and repair defects that may affect the safe operation of equipment before it is placed into service.