

# Kane's Quarry (Dimension Sandstone)

Fatal Accident: March 23, 2015

# Overview

- March 23, 2015 Daniel Acker, Owner/Operator, age 49 was killed while cutting stone on top of a bench
- He was using a walk-behind, self-propelled concrete saw

# Overview

- Daniel Acker was positioned between the saw and the ledge, when he tripped and fell.
- He and the saw went over the 4 ½ foot ledge.
- The saw fell on him.



# Information

Read the sections from “General Information” through “Training and Experience” on pages 1-4 of the Accident Investigation report.

# Information

- Why was this facility not on MSHA's inspection schedule?
- Would an inspection have prevented the accident?
- Were weather conditions a factor in the accident?
- What type of task training had the victim received?

# Information

- Were fall protection provisions in place?
- What was Acker doing at the time of the accident?
- Did his position contribute to the accident?
- What precautions might have prevented this accident?

## ACCIDENT SCENE PHOTO



**Victim was sawing stone blocks on the upper bench when he fell to the lower bench below (sump area) and the saw fell on top of him.**



# Accident Cause

What was the cause  
of the accident?

# Basic Causes

- Victim's failure to maintain control of the equipment

# MSHA Root Cause

The victim failed to maintain control of the self-propelled concrete saw that he was operating in reverse gear while repositioning to cut stone. No procedures were in place for persons to safely operate the walk-behind, self-propelled concrete saw on an elevated bench.

# Accident Prevention

What could have prevented this accident?

# Accident Prevention

Outline proper  
procedure for  
performing this task

# MSHA Best Practices

- Identify all hazards and use appropriate controls to protect miners prior to conducting any work.
- Ensure that operators are in a safe position and have control of their equipment at all times.
- Keep workplaces free of tripping hazards.
- Use barricades or railings at edges of drop-offs where persons are in danger of falling.

# MSHA Best Practices

- Equip walk behind masonry saws with automatic shut off devices to stop the engine if the operator cannot maintain control of the equipment.
- Design bench top stone cutting patterns to ensure the saw operator is not positioned between the saw and the drop off edge.