

Hycroft Mine

Hycroft Resources & Development Inc.

Fatal Accident: May 28, 2015

Overview

- May 28, 2015 David D. Martinez, truck driver, age 61 was killed when a water truck struck the portable toilet he was using.
- Martinez went to assist the driver of the water truck already parked.
- When Martinez arrived in his water truck, he parked facing the other water truck.

Overview

- As the other water truck departed the area, the driver turned his truck to avoid hitting Martinez's truck.
- The driver did not notice that he had struck the portable toilets, where Martinez was located.



Victim's Truck



Direction of truck travel and location of portable toilets



Location of #715 Truck before accident



Information

Read the sections entitled “Description of Accident” and “Discussion” on pages 3-6 of the Accident Investigation report.

Information

- Why was Martinez stopping to meet Armstrong at the stand pipe?
- What actions could have been taken prior to the attempted repair to identify the location of the toilets?
- Was communication adequate between Martinez and Armstrong after the repair attempt?
- Did Armstrong violate any safety policies that could have caused the accident?

Information

- Were there any equipment concerns that contributed to the accident?
- Were training or experience a contributing factor?
- Did weather or lighting cause potential problems?



Accident Cause

What was the cause
of the accident?

Basic Causes

- The driver did not maintain control of his truck.
- The portable toilets had inadequate protection from mine traffic.

MSHA Root Cause One

Management policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to ensure that drivers maintained control of mobile equipment. The truck's tire struck the portable toilet without the driver noticing.

MSHA Root Cause Two

Management policies and procedures were inadequate and failed to place the portable toilet facility in a location where it was compatible with the mining operation and would not be struck by mobile equipment.

MSHA Root Cause Two (cont.)

There was a berm constructed on the West side, or behind the portable toilets, to provide protection from the haul road that was heavily traveled. There were not berms for protection against traffic utilizing the water stand pipe area however.

Accident Prevention

What could have prevented this accident?

Accident Prevention

Outline proper
procedure for
performing this task

MSHA Best Practices

- Locate portable toilet facilities in areas inaccessible to mobile equipment. Always be aware of equipment operating in close proximity to your area.
- Ensure all persons are clear before moving equipment.
- Sound your horn to warn persons prior to moving mobile equipment and wait a few moments to give them time to get to a safe location.

MSHA Best Practices

- Communicate with mobile equipment operators before getting on or off of equipment and ensure they acknowledge your presence.
- Establish rules and use signs or signals warning of hazards at locations where pedestrians and mobile equipment are both performing tasks.