



Division of Mineral Mining

Serious Injury Accident Investigation: Fall Accident February 12, 2002

A laborer was seriously injured when he fell 25 feet from an extension ladder to the ground. The victim was using the ladder to access scaffolding that was located 30 feet above the ground. As the victim approached the scaffolding platform the upper section of the extension ladder disengaged and slipped down 1 to 2 feet into the base section. The ladder's movement caused the victim to lose his balance and fall. The locking mechanisms on the extension ladder were not functioning properly, and the ladder was set up at an angle steeper than that recommended by the manufacturer. The victim suffered a fractured left thigh (femur) and a fractured wrist.



RECOMMENDATIONS: Personnel should thoroughly inspect the work area and equipment prior to beginning work. Equipment should be maintained and used in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Virginia requires that employees be adequately trained in safe work-place practices and informed of potential safety hazards.