

## SERIOUS INJURY ACCIDENT: March 2008 Contractor Employee Falls Off Truck Bed

A welding and fabricating contractor employee was seriously injured when he fell approximately five feet from the bed of a flat bed truck mounted with a twenty ton crane/hoist. The crane was being used to raise and lower steel to and from elevated work areas on a screening plant. Work procedures established by the contractor called for two people to be involved in this activity, one operating the crane controls and another, hooking and un-hooking the materials from a safe position on the ground. This procedure was followed until a load was lowered to the truck bed while the helper was busy cutting metal nearby. The crane operator decided to unhook the load himself, stepping from the control platform up onto the truck bed. As he moved toward the load to un-hook it, he tripped and fell to the ground. The injured worker was transported to a hospital where he was admitted for treatment of three broken ribs and a punctured lung. A Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to the mine operator because this accident was not reported immediately to DMM and the accident scene was not secured, as required by DMM Safety and Health Regulation 4VAC25-40-50. An NOV also was issued to the mine operator because a certified foreman was not on site to conduct the pre-shift examination and ensure that all activities were conducted safely and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (4VAC25-40-120 and 130).

### CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

- This accident occurred because established work procedures were not followed. The injured worker fell while walking on the truck bed to release the clevis hook instead of waiting for his designated helper.
- Mine operators and contractors should emphasize to workers the importance of following established work procedures.
- Mine operators and contractors should review and post accident reporting procedures to ensure that all serious injury accidents are reported immediately and that the accident scene is secured as required by DMM safety regulations.
- Mine operators must ensure that a certified foreman is on duty as required by DMM safety regulations.

