



Division of Mineral Mining

## Serious Injury Accident: Over-the-Road Trucker Slip/Fall Accident April 12, 2004

A 50-year old over-the-road contract truck driver with more than 27 years of experience was seriously injured when he slipped and fell while covering his dump trailer. The truck driver had just pulled off the scales and parked along the side of the mine's main road in order to cover the load he had just picked up. The rope the victim was using to pull the tarp over the trailer broke and the victim slipped and fell on the pavement, fracturing his lower right leg in two places. The victim was discovered on the road soon after the accident by the plant manager. The victim was transported by ambulance to a hospital where he underwent surgery to repair his broken leg. The primary cause of the accident was determined to be the poor, deteriorated condition of the rope.



Location and position of victim when discovered by plant manager.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** To prevent similar accidents from occurring, all workers, including contractor employees, must perform a work area inspection prior to starting their assigned tasks (4VAC 25-40-460). This inspection should include examining tools or equipment (i.e., tarp rope) for wear and tear or safety defects before they are used in a task. Damaged or defective tools or equipment must be repaired or replaced before they are used. In addition, workers should ensure that footing is secure before conducting a strenuous activity.