

SERIOUS INJURY ACCIDENT: June 2007 Assistant Electrician Falls From Walkway

A miner was seriously injured at a crushed stone quarry while assisting an electrician replacing electrical wires beneath a jaw crusher feeder. The miner was standing on a platform on an elevated lower-level walkway beside the crusher feeder and feeding a wire “fish” through a conduit to a worker on the other side of the feeder, one level above him. The walkway’s handrails in the area that the miner was working in had been removed as part of an unrelated maintenance activity. After attaching wires to the “fish”, the co-worker called to the miner to pull it back through the conduit. Upon getting no response, the co-worker went to check on the victim and found him unconscious on the ground approximately fifteen feet below the platform where he had been working and apparently fallen from. The miner, who was not wearing fall protection, was hospitalized with serious head and spinal injuries.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- This accident occurred due to unsafe working conditions and unsafe work practices. An adequate workplace examination was not done prior to beginning work to identify potentially hazardous conditions such as the missing handrails, creating a fall hazard.
- The injured miner was not wearing fall protection equipment even though several sets of safety harnesses were available for use within 100 feet of the accident scene.
- DMM recommends that all workers be reminded of their responsibility to examine their work areas for unsafe conditions prior to starting work and frequently thereafter (**4VAC25-40-460**).
- Workers are required to wear a safety harness with a line when working in an area where there is a danger of falling (**4VAC25-40-1740**).



Miner fell from platform at top center of photograph