



DMM Safety Alert: Use of Fall Protection

In June 2007, a miner was seriously injured when he fell fifteen feet to a concrete pad located below the platform he was working from (see the photograph). Numerous other miners have been injured or killed in falls from varying heights. Head first falls from as little as three feet have resulted in serious injuries. The Virginia Division of Mineral Mining safety regulations require a safety harness with an attached lanyard be worn when working where there is a danger of falling (4VAC25-40-2550). To avoid injuries from falls, always evaluate your work area prior to starting work. At a minimum, ask yourself the following questions:

- Does the work height pose a fall hazard?
- When working from lower heights, does the work position present a head first fall hazard?
- Is there a suitable point to secure the safety harness lanyard? If not, and a fall hazard exists, other means of safe access must be provided.

If your answers indicate the need, then use a safety harness and lanyard!!



Miner fell from platform in top center of photograph

Falls from stationary equipment, mobile equipment and travelways continue to be a leading cause of injuries at mineral mines in Virginia.