



DMM Safety Alert:

Slips, Trips and Falls

Injuries from slips, trips and falls from mobile equipment, stationary equipment and travelways continue to occur frequently at Virginia mine sites. In August 2007, a miner was seriously injured at an underground mine when he fell twenty-five feet as he descended the shaft ladder. This is the second serious injury accident resulting from a travelway fall since June 2007, when a miner fell fifteen feet from a crusher walkway. The Virginia Division of Mineral Mining safety regulations require mine operators to establish certain safeguards intended to prevent accidental falls, including:

- Openings above, below or near travelways that present a fall hazard must be protected by railings, barriers or covers unless it is impractical, in which case warning signs or signals must be posted (4VAC25-40-1920).
- When climbing or descending a fixed or portable ladder on mobile equipment, stationary equipment or other travelways you must face the ladder with both hands free for climbing (4VAC25-40-1910).
- All personnel shall examine their active workings for unsafe conditions prior to starting work and frequently thereafter (4VAC25-40-460).



Underground mine shaft where recent accident occurred.