



## DMM Safety Alert: Customer Fatality

On August 18, 2009, a customer received serious injuries at a sand and gravel mine in Virginia that resulted in his death on August 22, 2009. The customer, a local farmer, drove his single axle dump truck to an area of the mine to be loaded. After stopping his truck, he got out and went to speak with the excavator operator who was to do the loading. While the customer was speaking to the excavator operator, the truck rolled backwards striking and pinning the victim between the back of the truck and the side of the excavator. Local EMS personnel were summoned and the injured man was air lifted to a hospital where he succumbed to his injuries four days later. To help ensure customer safety on mine sites and avoid a similar type of accident from occurring, the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining recommends the following:

- Customers/truck drivers must be instructed regarding the hazards they may encounter while on the mine site, such as:
  - Persons on the ground must not position themselves in such a way as to be endangered by the movement of mobile equipment (**4VAC25-40-1600**).
  - Mobile equipment must not be left unattended unless the brakes are set. If on a grade, the wheels must be blocked or turned into a bank (**4VAC25-40-1510**).
  - Eye contact must be made with equipment operators prior to approaching, mounting or dismounting equipment (**4VAC25-40-1560**).
- In the vast majority of cases, it is best to require drivers to remain in their truck cabs at all times while in the loading area.
- Clear loading instructions should be posted and explained to all drivers.



Victim was pinned between the back of his truck and the side of the excavator.