



Division of Mineral Mining

## Serious Injury Accident Investigation: Fall Accident March 11, 2002

The operator of a Kawasaki 85-Z front-end loader broke his foot when he fell from the bottom step of the loader's access ladder. The operator was admitted to the hospital and required surgery to repair his broken foot. The access ladder on the operator's side of the loader was extensively bent, and the bottom flexible step was loose and improperly fastened at the time of the accident. In addition, the operator's boots were muddy and the soles were worn and contained little tread.



**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Falls from mobile equipment continue to account for a significant number of serious injury accidents at mineral mines in Virginia. Always inspect access ladders during the “pre-operational inspection” and throughout the day to ensure safe and functional condition. In addition, when climbing or descending ladders maintain 3 points of contact, and face the ladder and have both hands free for climbing as required by DMM safety regulation 4 VAC 25-40-1910.