

DMM Safety Alert:

Miner Fatally Injured In Silo Collapse

On August 3, 2015, at approximately 6:20 AM, an eighteen-year-old miner was fatally injured when the silo he was working under catastrophically failed. The lower cone section of the silo and its contents fell onto him and engulfed him. The silo was fully loaded at the time of the accident. Emergency medical and technical rescue teams responded to the site and initial attempts to locate and rescue the victim were unsuccessful. Further attempts to recover the victim were delayed until the silo structure could be stabilized. The victim's body was recovered from the accident scene at 11:41 AM on August 4, 2015.

Investigations are ongoing to determine what caused the accident. Because of the uncertainty regarding the specific cause of this accident, at this time, the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) recommends the following:

- DMM regulation **4 VAC 25-40-365** states, "Structures shall be of substantial construction and maintained in safe condition." DMM urges all mine operators and personnel to inspect structures to ensure they are substantially constructed in regard to their current use and that there is no evidence of damage or deterioration that may make them unsafe or unsound.



Fatal Accident Scene