



Division of Mineral Mining

Serious Injury Accident: Construction Worker Fall March 22, 2006

A contract welder was seriously injured when he fell from a surge bin feeder under construction at a mine site. The injured worker was climbing a portable ladder when it slipped causing him to fall approximately 12 feet to the crusher platform below. The ladder was positioned unsupported within the surge bin to provide access to welding positions. Once in position, the welders would tie-off their safety harness lanyards. As the victim neared the top of the ladder, the ladder feet slipped causing the ladder and victim to fall through the feeder discharge chute. The victim suffered multiple fractures to his right ankle and ribs.



The surge bin feeder structure where the accident occurred. The man-lift basket was positioned to stabilize feeder and block opening of feeder chute.



The injured worker landed on this metal platform next to the unguarded opening shown in the center of this photograph.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS: This accident occurred due to unsafe working conditions and unsafe work practices. The construction contractor failed to provide the welder safe access into the surge bin structure, and the injured welder should not have climbed the unsecured portable ladder. Prior to assigning work assignments, the certified mine foreman or "competent person", as applicable, should ensure that workers are provided safe access to all work areas. Periodically during a shift, the certified mine foreman or "competent person" should check workers to ensure safe working conditions and safe work practices.