

DMM Safety Alert: Miner Falls From Haul Truck

On November 11, 2010, a haul truck operator with 33 years of mining experience was seriously injured when he fell while climbing the access ladder to the cab of a Caterpillar 777D haul truck. As the miner reached out to grab the handrail near the top of the ladder, his hands slipped and he lost his balance and fell to the ground. The miner, who suffered a separated shoulder, a broken elbow, and two broken ribs, was initially treated at the site by emergency medical technicians and then airlifted to a hospital, where he was admitted for treatment and observation.

Over the past several years, accidents involving slips and falls have been one of the top three causes of injuries to Virginia's mineral miners. Mobile equipment operators are most often injured as they are climbing onto or off of the equipment.

To prevent these types of accidents, the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining recommends the following:

- Always maintain three points of contact while climbing ladders.
- Whenever climbing up or down a ladder, always face the ladder and keep both hands free for climbing.
- Make sure that your footing and hand-holds are secure when climbing. Take your time!
- Keep ladders in good condition and free of obstructions.
- Make sure ladders are free of oil, grease, mud, etc. that might cause a slip and/or fall.
- Keep shoes clean and in good condition to minimize the risk of slips and falls.



Scene of this serious injury.