



# DMM Safety Alert: Falls From Mobile Equipment

In September 2008, a night shift haul truck driver was seriously injured when he fell from the top of the access ladder on his Caterpillar 769D haul truck. The miner had stopped the truck and was preparing to descend the ladder when he fell approximately seven feet to the ground. The miner was hospitalized for treatment of five broken ribs, a broken bone in his shoulder and a dislocated shoulder. This is one of the most common types of accident involving mobile equipment. The following Virginia Safety And Health Regulations For Mineral Mining are specifically intended to prevent this type of accident from occurring:

- Illumination sufficient to provide safe working conditions shall be provided at all active workings, structures, and travelways (**4VAC25-40-200**).
- Machinery and equipment shall be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's specifications (this includes all steps and handrails)(**4VAC25-40-360**).
- Mobile equipment that is to be used during a shift shall be inspected by the equipment operator. Safety defects shall be reported to the certified foreman and corrected before the equipment is used (this, too, includes steps and handrails)(**4VAC25-40-145**).
- Persons climbing or descending ladders shall face the ladders and have both hands free for climbing (maintain three points of contact) (**4VAC25-40-1910**).
- Fixed ladders shall be anchored securely and installed to provide at least three inches of toe clearance (**4VAC25-40-1850**).

➤ **Equipment operators must keep their shoes clean and in good condition, as well as steps and walkways, to minimize the risk of slips, trips and falls!**

