



**Fatality #20 - October 17, 2008**  
**Fall of Roof/Back - Georgia - Limestone (Crushed and Broken)**  
**O-N Minerals (Filler Products) Company - Marble Hill Mine**

**METAL/NONMETAL MINE FATALITY** - On October 17, 2008, a 45 year-old scaler operator with 8 years of experience was fatally injured at an underground stone mine. He was inside the cab operating a track mounted excavator, with a scaling attachment, when a rock fall occurred. A rock, about 13' wide x 26' long x 4½' thick, fell from the back. Rescuers recovered the victim about 7 hours after the rock fell.



**Best Practices**

- Examine and test ground conditions in areas where work is to be performed prior to work commencing and as ground conditions warrant during the shift.
- Be alert to any change of ground conditions.
- Identify and scale loose ground from a location which will not expose persons to falling material.
- Use scaling equipment with sufficient reach to prevent persons from exposure to falling material.
- Take down or support ground that creates a hazard to persons before performing other work or travel in the affected area.
- When ground conditions create a hazard to persons, install ground support before other work is permitted in the affected area.
- Design and use mining methods that will maintain stability and control the ground in places where persons work or travel.

This is the 2<sup>0th</sup> fatality reported in calendar year 2008 in the metal and nonmetal mining industries. As of this date in 2007, there were 29 fatalities reported in these industries. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fall of Back fatality in 2008. There were 3 Fall of Back fatalities in the same period in 2007.

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The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data **ONLY** and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.

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