

# DMM Safety Alert: Dimension Stone Fatality

On Thursday October 11, 2018, a 26 year old miner was fatally injured at a dimension stone quarry in Virginia. The miner was attempting to topple a large sawn slab of granite away from the quarry wall using hydraulic bags to push the slab away from the wall. While standing on top of the slab, it unexpectedly broke along a horizontal seam and dropped away from the face causing the miner to fall between the slab and the quarry wall, where he was struck by several large rocks that fell from the top of the slab.

To prevent this type of accident from occurring, the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining recommends the following:

- Ensure fall protection is worn by all persons when working in an area where there is a danger of falling.
- Ensure that all miners are adequately task trained before assigning them a task or duty.
- Have written procedures in place that adequately mitigate the safety hazards associated with tasks.
- Perform a job safety analysis when a task is not fully consistent with established procedures.
- Stay off of, and a safe distance away from, objects being jacked, lifted, or otherwise moved due to the unpredictability of the movement.

