[Jan](#january) [Feb](#february) [Mar](#march) [Apr](#april) [May](#may) [Jun](#june) [Jul](#july) [Aug](#august) [Sep](#september) [Oct](#october) [Nov](#november) [Dec](#december)

**Successful Mine Rescues in January**

**1846** — Following a massive roof fall in the [Delaware-Hudson Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/delaware_and_hudson.htm), John Hosey clambered his way through the damaged mine and managed to get out after being confined in the mine for **48 hours**. He was not seriously injured, except that his hands were lacerated from working his way through the rocks and slate.

**1904** — [Harwick Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/harwick.htm), Cheswick, Pennsylvania - Adolph Gunia was brought to the surface still alive after an **undisclosed period** following the explosion in the Harwick mine in Cheswick, Pennsylvania. He was the lone survivor of the mine blast which took 179 lives.

**1907** — [Lorentz Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/lorentz.htm), Penco, West Virginia — Following the explosion, almost eighty men were still at the bottom of the shaft. Almost suffocated, they huddled closely together and cried pitifully up the shaft for assistance. Several rescuers took possession of the elevator car and quickly ran it down into the shaft. There were accommodations for only about twenty of the men at a time, however, and the foreign miners, who were crazed from fright, fought like demons to board the car, greatly retarding the work of rescue. On the last two trips a majority of the miners were unconscious and had to be carried from the car.

**1910** — [Primero Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/primero.htm), Primero, Colorado — After an **undisclosed period** following an explosion in the Primero Mine, one man, Dio Nardine, was rescued. He was found badly injured beneath a mass of earth and timbers. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2209&dat=19100201&id=GO8_AAAAIBAJ&sjid=NqQMAAAAIBAJ&pg=1966,1373785&hl=en).

**1911** — [Carbon Hill No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/carbon_hill.htm), Carbon Hill, Virginia — 6 men who were injured in the explosion at the Gayton Mine at Carbon Hill, Virginia were returned to the surface after an undisclosed period. It is not clear whether all of these men survived their injuries. A total of seven miners died as result of the explosion.

**1914** — Cave-in at Black Diamond Mine, Luzerne, Pennsylvania - Four miners were rescued after **seven hours** by parties led by company officials. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1915_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1918** — A cave-in covering approximately 5 acres occurred at the Pennsylvania Coal Company’s Barnum Mine in Pittston, PA. Two men were killed and 15 injured. Five of the men were rescued **10 hours** after the accident. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1919_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1924** — [McClintock Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mcclintock_news_only.htm), Johnston City, Illinois — Nine injured miners were removed by rescuers after an **undisclosed period** following an explosion in the McClintock mine which killed 33. Eight of the injured were hospitalized. Two were believed fatally hurt.

**1926** — 21 miners managed to escape death's clutches after being trapped for **24 hours** in the mule stables following an explosion of the [Jamison No. 8 mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/jamison_1926_news_only.htm) in Farmington, West Virginia. 19 miners were killed in the disaster.

**1926** — Eight negro miners were rescued after an **undisclosed period** from the [No. 21 mine in Wilburton, Oklahoma](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/wilburton_no21.htm). And in a truly heroic effort, Julius Graham, one of the first 7 rescued negroes, rushed back in and saved his step-brother, Roy Gray.

**1926** — [Mossboro No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/mossboro_news_only.htm), Helena, Alabama — After an **undisclosed period** following the Mossboro No. 1 mine explosion, twelve men were brought out of the mine alive in one group to be followed by another squad of 13 workers.

**1928** — Eight miners were brought out of the [Peabody Coal Company Mine No. 18](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/peabody_18_news_only.htm) alive and uninjured. They were: Bill Reed, Alex Hamlin, Tony Strauss, Charles Peebles, Will Allen, Ruel Parks, Charles Mitchell and James Benn. Reed crawled out of an air shaft while Hamlin and Strauss were in another part of the mine and built a protecting wall to prevent the deadly gas from reaching them. W. E. Wade, another rescued miner was suffering from the effects of gas.

**1930** — [Lillybrook No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/lillybrook.htm), Lillybrook, West Virginia — After an **undisclosed period**, the bodies of eight men, six of whom were Negroes, were recovered. R. L. Meadows, one of the injured men, was found lying with the dead. He was considered by physicians to have a chance for recovery.

**1931** — Seven miners were rescued after an **undisclosed period** following an explosion in the [Little Betty Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/little_betty_news_only.htm) at Dugger, Indiana. The men who were rescued had barricaded themselves in an entry off one of the main corridors. Those rescued included Locie Hale, William Bedwell, Ben Snyder, Herman Brown, Charles Love and Charles Centers, all of Linton, and Jule Wellington of Sullivan.

**1939** — Nineteen miners were rescued from the [Clinton Coal Company’s Crown Hill No. 6 Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/crown_hill.htm) near Clinton, Indiana after being trapped there for **10 hours**. Rescuers waded water waist-deep through another tunnel, abandoned for 20 years, broke down a barrier and reached the men from behind.

**1941** — John Ryan, 28, died shortly after he had been rescued from a "bootleg" coal mine near Pottsville, Pennsylvania in which he had been trapped for **48 hours**. Joseph Slane, 30, who was trapped with Ryan was rescued after a third miner, Vincent Burns, had spread the alarm. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19410109&id=ugQyAAAAIBAJ&sjid=POIFAAAAIBAJ&pg=3240,1718338&hl=en).

**1942** — [Wadge Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/wadge_news_only.htm), Mt. Harris, Colorado — Four miners who were working nearer the entrance were rescued after an **undisclosed period**. These men included Joe Gall, Bill Fickle, Elmer Everson and Mike Atansoff.

**1950** — Joseph Burda was rescued after being trapped for **40 hours** in a "bootleg" anthracite mine near Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. He and his brother, Edward, became trapped following a cave-in. Rescue attempts carried on for Edward, however, it is unknown if they were successful. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1129&dat=19500116&id=ptgNAAAAIBAJ&sjid=SGoDAAAAIBAJ&pg=2614,3204214&hl=en).

**1954** — Unnamed Mine Cave-in, Sidney, Kentucky — James G. Thornsbury rescued Frederick J. Pinson from a cave-in, Sidney, Kentucky, January 23, 1984. Pinson, 31, was seated in the operator's cab of a mining machine when a large section of the ceiling of the mine in which he was working collapsed atop the machine, trapping him. Thornsbury, 25, miner, who had been working nearby, fled the area of the fall. Hearing Pinson's cries for help, Thornsbury returned to the edge of the collapsed ceiling, under which there was a narrow space. Despite additionally falling rock, Thornsbury crawled into the space and proceeded to clear a path to Pinson. Upon reaching Pinson, Thornsbury assisted him from the cab, then crawled with him from beneath the fallen ceiling. Pinson suffered bruised ribs but fully recovered. Mr. Thornsbury was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=59966).

**1956** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania — On January 31, 1956, when a section of roof fell in a coal mine 550 feet below the surface, Percy A. Hooper, 33, was buried between a loading machine and a coal pillar. During an arduous rescue in a space 18 inches wide and 20 inches high, and working with handtools, John W. Blazek, Jr. managed to free Hooper enough that the pair were able to be pulled to safety by assisting miners. Hooper, who had been buried an hour and a half, was hospitalized for four days from shock and bruises. Blazek, who had been in the tunnel 30 minutes, was nervous and sustained minor cuts. Both recovered. For his bravery, Mr. Blazek was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=44006).

**1959** — [River Slope Mine Inundation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/knox.htm), Port Griffith, Pennsylvania — One miner, Amadeo Pancotti, age 50, was awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism for leading 32 miners to safety. As the flood waters rose, Pancotti scaled a 50 foot sand-stone wall which rose generally at an angle of 75 degrees making his way to the surface. Once there, he summoned others, who raised Louis Randazza, John Elko, and Joseph Soltis from the shaft. A rescue team entered the mine through the shaft and found James LaFratte, Jerome Stuccio, and Pacifico Stella. Twenty-six other men later were located and removed. Twelve miners perished and their bodies were never recovered.

**1960** — Joseph Mismash was rescued after being trapped **15 hours** in a U. S. Steel Corporation iron mine near Ely, Minnesota. Mismash was trapped in a walled-in cubicle blocked by a 14 foot-thick block of ore. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2194&dat=19600121&id=g9gxAAAAIBAJ&sjid=eOQFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2773,1427568).

**1961** — Rescuers saved 15-year-old, Larry Dacek, after falling down an airshaft of the abandoned Sutro Tunnel silver mine near Virginia City, Nevada. He was trapped for **11 hours** there. Mining experts said Dacek escaped certain death by coming to rest on a rock layer supported by a few rotten timbers. Below him was a straight 1,400 foot fall. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1734&dat=19610107&id=HjUgAAAAIBAJ&sjid=X1EEAAAAIBAJ&pg=7160,3984824&hl=en).

**1964** — Stanley Johnson was rescued after his **27-hour** entrapment following a cave-in at a MacKay, Utah lead and copper mine owned by Empire Copper Mines. There were no others killed or injured in the accident. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=336&dat=19640109&id=c6pSAAAAIBAJ&sjid=3n8DAAAAIBAJ&pg=6213,1991013).

**1967** — Two miners, Virgil Williamson and Harry Silman, became trapped after a roof fall in the Shannopin Mine of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation. Williamson was found dead early on January 24 and Silman was rescued after **2 hours**. Taken to the hospital, he was listed in fair condition, suffering from shock and bruises. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1734&dat=19670124&id=OI0bAAAAIBAJ&sjid=RVEEAAAAIBAJ&pg=3606,1385325&hl=en).

**1969** — Twelve miners were rescued after being trapped more than **six hours** after a fire at the Christopher Coal Company, Humphrey No. 7 mine near Mount Morris, Pennsylvania. Eleven of the miners were walked out by rescuers, one man was removed by stretcher. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1144&dat=19690128&id=z2IqAAAAIBAJ&sjid=HFAEAAAAIBAJ&pg=3102,4405759&hl=en).

**2003** — [McElroy Mine Shaft Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/mcelroy.htm), Cameron, West Virginia — Rescuers clambered into an oversized bucket attached to a crane and were lowered to two injured miners below. They brought out Benjamin Bair and Richard Brumley. They were transported to Pittsburgh's Mercy Hospital. Bair was listed in critical condition with second-degree burns and multiple fractures. Brumley was in serious condition with second-degree burns, puncture wounds and a concussion. The [five rescuers were honored with Carnegie Medals for heroism](https://yhoo.it/2xWYu8x) for saving injured workers after the explosion in a mine shaft. They included Sheriff’s deputies, Brent Wharry and Steven Cook; Donald Kline, paramedic; and miners Aaron Meyer and Jack Cain.

**2006** — One miner, Randal McCloy Jr., is found alive after **40 hours** following the [Sago Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/sago.htm) in West Virginia. Twelve miners died in the accident. This disaster prompted the creation of the [Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006](http://arlweb.msha.gov/MinerAct/MinerActSingleSource.asp) (MINER Act).

**2010** — Three Missouri miners were rescued from a DPOS after being trapped more than **5 hours** in the No. 29 mine of the Doe Run Company near Viburnum on January 21, 2010. Their escape was cut off when a 30-ton haul truck caught fire. The trapped miners were: Robert McClain, truck driver; Michael Byers, loader operator; and Timothy Yount, scaler operator. [*See more*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/2010_Doe_Run.htm).

**2015** — Keystone No. 1 Abandoned Mine Rescue, Keystone, West Virginia — In January 2015, a McDowell County man had to be rescued from the Keystone No. 1 mine after entering it to steal copper, officials said (see page 2).  The injured man and his partner became separated after entering the mine.  The partner made his way out, but the injured man did not.  According to a source with knowledge of the incident, the trespasser survived 20 hours in 12 percent oxygen in a rescue effort lasting 6-8 hours. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/2016_Keystone_Mine_Rescue.pdf).

**2016** — [Cargill Salt Elevator Incident](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/2016_Cargill_Salt_Mine.pdf), Lansing, New York — Rescue crews freed 17 miners in upstate New York after they spent a terrifying **10 hours** down in one of the world's deepest salt mines. The first four of the Cargill Salt miners emerged to the surface in a basket around 7 a.m. The rest were rescued from the salt mine over the next two hours.

**Rescuer Deaths in January**

**1904** — [Harwick Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/harwick.htm), Cheswick, Pennsylvania — Of 175 mine workers underground at the time, the single survivor was the severely burned 16-year-old, Adolph Gunia. Other casualties included Daniel A. Lyle and the mine engineer, Selwyn M. Taylor, who both gave their lives in rescue attempts after responding to the scene. Greatly touched by Taylor's and Lyle's sacrifice, Andrew Carnegie had medals privately minted for their families, and within two months had established a $5 million Carnegie Hero Fund as a result.

**1906** — [Haverstraw Clay Pit Collapse](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/haverstraw.htm), Haverstraw, New York — After a house was toppled into a pit cut by clay diggers in Haverstraw, NY, five men went to the rescue to aid their neighbors. After the first house fell, twelve other houses went crashing over the precipice. The wreckage quickly caught fire, and those who were in the mass were either crushed or burned to death. Seventeen persons were killed.

**1909** — [Northwestern Mine Asphyxiation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/northwestern_ashford.htm), Ashford County, Washington — After a miner fired shots in the Northwestern coal mine, an explosion occurred. Another victim (Dinkler), with others, went to rescue the shotfirer, but was overcome by after damp before he could.

**1912** — [Cherry Valley Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/cherry_valley_news_only.htm), Cherry Valley, Pennsylvania — John Ferrell of the U.S. Bureau of Mines was killed while exploring a mine in which a fire was raging. Ferrell had been in charge of the Bureau of Mines Rescue Car No. 5 since October 1911. At a mine rescue a few weeks earlier at Briceville, Tennessee, Ferrell rescued five men. It is unknown if any others were killed or injured in the Cherry Valley Mine Fire.

**1914** — [Boston Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/boston.htm), Bingham, Utah — Three of the deceased in the Boston mine fire were Austrians, who on hearing that two of their countrymen were in the smoke-filled workings rushed in at 9 o'clock a.m. to attempt a rescue. Their bodies were brought out at 10 o'clock that night by three rescuers wearing oxygen helmets. The three attempting the rescue were **Mike Osich, Josep Stemich**, and **Robert Duich**.

**1943** — [Pursglove No. 15 Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/pursglove_news_only.htm), Pursglove, West Virginia — During the fire at the No. 15 mine of the Pursglove Mining Company, an act of heroism cost the life of Guy Quinn, 38-year-old night-foreman, who escaped after the fire but returned to open two ventilating doors in an effort to save his trapped comrades. He had managed to open one door but was overcome while working on the other.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Successful Mine Rescues in February**

**1891** — 13 miners died in Jeanesville, Pennsylvania after they were trapped by water in the [Spring Mountain No. 1 Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/spring_mountain_news_only.htm) operated by J. C. Hayden and Company on February 4, 1891. Four others were rescued **19 days** later. They were John Tomaskusky, Joe Mautchwitch, Bosso Franko, and John Berno. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=34&dat=18910225&id=kCEHAAAAIBAJ&sjid=uTYDAAAAIBAJ&pg=3341,1627422).

**1891** — Following the firing of a blast, water rushed into the Susquehanna Colliery at Grand Tunnel, Pennsylvania trapping Michael Schilling, William Cragel, and John Riner. Freedom from the flooded mine came for the trio when rescuers found them after **115 hours**. They had to wait out the 4 days perched on a piece of timber 3 inches wide. When found, the men were almost completely exhausted and would require care to bring them through. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2329&dat=18910210&id=Db0oAAAAIBAJ&sjid=1gUGAAAAIBAJ&pg=844,6114630&hl=en).

**1906** — [Parral Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/parral.htm), Parral, West Virginia — After an **undisclosed period** following the explosion, rescuers removed twelve miners alive, but it was believed that most of them would die from their injuries.

**1908** — All but one of 28 men and boys who were entrapped in the Mid-Valley Colliery near Shamokin, Pennsylvania were rescued after **1 day**. Frank Orloskie, fell down a chute after the accident and was killed. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2249&dat=19080218&id=6aE-AAAAIBAJ&sjid=YVoMAAAAIBAJ&pg=4335,5059933&hl=en).

**1910** — [Ernest No. 2 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/ernest_news_only.htm), Ernest, Pennsylvania — Andy Kragear was overcome by the gas arising from the explosion. A rescue party using an oxygen helmet rescued and brought him to the surface about **8 hours** after the explosion. Shortly afterward he gained consciousness and was able to tell where he boarded. He was the only man in the mine in the vicinity of the explosion that escaped.

**1912** — With 140 rescuers tearing at the rock and earth blocking the shaft of the Bunker Hill Mine at Sutter Creek, California, freedom came at noon on February 8 for sixty-two miners trapped for **23 hours**. Wives and daughters of the trapped men held torches through the nights while rescuers assailed the jam. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2199&dat=19120207&id=ZYRYAAAAIBAJ&sjid=_kMNAAAAIBAJ&pg=2278,2220162&hl=en).

**1914** — [Cannon Mine Inundation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/cannon.htm) - Andrew Churnick, 50, was killed by a inrush of water and gravel in No. 11 chute on the water level in the Gem seam. His body was recovered **4 days** later near the first crosscut in the No. 12 chute. His partner, Mike Bobchurnick, was rescued after being imprisoned for **7 days** near the 6th crosscut in the same chute.

**1915** — [Explosion at Carlisle Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/carlisle_news_only.htm), Carlisle, West Virginia – Twenty-one men were killed and four were rescued soon after the explosion by parties led by company officials. One of the rescued men, suffering from burns, was sent to a hospital. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1915_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1916** — [Davis No. 42 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/davis_42_news_only.htm), Kempton, Maryland — Those not directly in range of the blast hurried to the main entries and started for the foot of the shaft in which the cages were still operating. There they were met by rescue parties from the surface and quickly hoisted. Other rescuers made their way into the mine and located other miners who had been unable to reach the main lines of communication. These men were brought out after an **undisclosed period**.

**1918** — [Amasa-Porter Mine Inundation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/amasa_porter.htm), Crystal Falls, Michigan — Following an inundation of water in the Amasa-Porter Mine at Crystal Falls, Michigan, one miner was found unconscious by rescuers after an **undisclosed period** and brought to the surface. Three others managed to escape unaided.

**1924** — [Milford Mine Inundation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/milford.htm), Crosby, Minnesota — Fourteen-year-old Frank Hrvatin was responsible for saving the lives of two men when a surface cave-in caused water to flood the Milford mine from nearby Foley Lake a few miles north of Crosby. Frank reached the mine’s one vertical shaft and began to scurry up the ladder. With water climbing fast, Frank wormed around an older miner, Harry Hosford. But another exhausted miner, Matt Kangas, clogged their escape route. Frank recalled the "superhuman strength" that took over and enabled him to squirm between Kangas’ legs and hoist the man rung-by-rung up to safety. Then he reached back down and grabbed the wrist of Hosford, who was up to his waist in rising muck, hollering: "For God’s sakes, hurry! The three miners were among only seven that got out.

**1925** — [City Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/city_news_only.htm), Sullivan, Indiana — Emery Davidson of Sullivan was the first injured man to be brought from the workings after an **undisclosed period**. He had a badly crushed chest, suffered when slate and rock loosened from the roof of the mine by the blast fell of him.

**1927** — Joseph Schultz, a miner at the Henry Clay Colliery near Shamokin, Pennsylvania was entombed **4½ hours** in a blind heading after a pillar crumbled when disturbed by a shot. He was penned behind hundreds of tons of coal and rock in a space about 3 feet wide and 6 feet long. Rescuers found him exhausted. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19270203&id=0p8hAAAAIBAJ&sjid=8JkFAAAAIBAJ&pg=1760,647658&hl=en).

**1928** — [Mama No. 3 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/mama_news_only.htm), Jenny Lind, Arkansas — Immediately after the early morning explosion in the Mama No. 3 mine, every miner in the district and volunteers were hurriedly formed into rescue parties. Shortly before noon, an entrance was blasted into the tomb where the miners were trapped and 105 men were rescued. About 35 of these were injured in the explosion and others were suffering from the effects of gas.

**1928** — One miner was found alive after an explosion at the [Kinlock underground coal mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/kinloch_1928_news_only.htm) of the Valley Camp Coal Company in Parnassus, Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh. The rescued miner was trapped for nearly **1 day**. 12 miners were killed in this accident. (Parnassus was later renamed New Kensington).

**1930** — [Standard Coal Company, Standard Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/standard_news_only.htm) — Five were rescued by crews from nearby mining communities. The five, taken out after an **undisclosed period**, had bratticed themselves from the deadly gas fumes, far back in the workings and had left notes directing their rescuers where to find them.

**1937** — Robert Johnson spent **eight days** without food in utter darkness in an abandoned Flemington, West Virginia coal mine. Guided by his weak cries, Bill McDonald, Minor Cleavenger and Lon Smith found the man and brought him out on a stretcher. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2209&dat=19370209&id=CPdEAAAAIBAJ&sjid=oLoMAAAAIBAJ&pg=5913,3857956&hl=en).

**1943** — [Smith No. 3 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/bearcreekmtn.htm), Carbon County, Montana — As told in the book "Red Lodge Saga of a Western Area" by Shirley Zupan and Harry J. Owens, three miners were rescued from the Smith No. 3 mine disaster. At the time of the explosion, Alex Hawthorne, Willard Reid and Eli Houtonen felt unusual pressure in their ears with no sound. A terrible wind came at them from inside the mine, blowing debris. Hawthorne reached a phone and sent word that something was wrong, and that he was coming out. He was then overcome by gas. Reid and Houtonen were knocked off their feet by the force of the wind. Reid managed to get up and tried to waken Houtonen. Guided by Reid's lamp, rescue men found the three and took them above ground. The three survived the explosion; 74 others did not.

**1949** — Fifteen miners were rescued after being trapped for **seven hours** by a fire which occurred in the engine room of the Kittoe Mining Works near Benton, Wisconsin. The fire cut the men off from their 167-foot escape shaft to the mine head. Except for one miner who suffered a slight heart attack, all the men remained calm throughout their ordeal. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1298&dat=19490228&id=b75HAAAAIBAJ&sjid=VIoDAAAAIBAJ&pg=2321,5264311&hl=en).

**1958** — Glenn Burchett was rescued after a **6 hour** roof fall entrapment in the [Amherst Coal Company’s Lundale Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/lundale_news_only.htm) at Morgantown Post, West Virginia. Rescue workers using hydraulic jacks slowly and methodically lifted the fallen slate to a point where Burchett could be extricated. Sadly, Burchett later died from his injuries.

**1977** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Apollo, Pennsylvania — John R. Bazella helped to rescue Donald J. McCully from a cave-in, Penn Hills, Pennsylvania, February 8, 1977. When a cave-in occurred in a coal mine, McCully, 46, was completely buried alongside a mining machine but was able to breathe because the shale and sandstone rock that had fallen was partially supported by collapsed wooden beams. Bazella, 31, coal mine mechanic, and other workmen gathered to assist in the rescue of McCully. After another machine had removed enough rocks to uncover the end of the collapsed boom of the mining machine, a tunnel was dug by hand alongside the boom. It was necessary to cut through a fallen beam along the way as, with the men crawling in and out, the careful removal of rocks finally extended the tunnel to McCully. Rocks were removed from around him. As a result of the efforts of Bazella and the other men, McCully then was pulled from under the rock fall via the tunnel. For their bravery, Mr. Bazella, Clayton R. Wall, Vincent J. Shilobod, Thomas V. Damico, and Lawrence P. Rankin were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=55971).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rescuer Deaths in February**

**1899** — [Diamondville No. 1 Mine Asphyxiations](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/diamondville_1899_news_only.htm), Diamondville, Wyoming — Ten brave men were risking their lives endeavoring to reopen the Diamondville No. 1 coal mine. They were all knocked down, one by one, by blackdamp. When help arrived, two were already dead, and the others were resuscitated with great difficulty. The names of the dead are John L. Russell and Lee Wright. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=336&dat=18990214&id=UbVLAAAAIBAJ&sjid=aDADAAAAIBAJ&pg=5019,3469322).

**1907** — [Thomas No. 25 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/thomas_25_news_only.htm), Thomas, West Virginia — A rescue party of 7 men entered the mine and were exploring for survivors. They had penetrated as far as the third heading when suddenly the current of air died away. The motor which operated the large fan above the entrance had burned out. Now exposed to the blackdamp, 4 of these men were quickly overcome. **Dan R. Jones** died from asphyxiation and the other 3 were removed by re-enforcements and revived under the treatment of physicians.

**1911** — [Cokedale Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/cokedale_news_only.htm), Trinidad, Colorado — On February 9, 1911, E. A. Sutton, assistant superintendent of the Cokedale mine of the Carbon Coal & Coke Company, Carbondale, Colorado, lost his life while wearing a Dräger helmet-type oxygen breathing apparatus after an explosion in this mine in which 17 men were killed. It is believed that this was the first instance in the United States, wherein a person died while wearing oxygen breathing apparatus.

**1911** — [Belmont Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/belmont_mine.htm), Tonopah, Nevada — William A. "Big Bill" Murphy, a 28-year-old cage operator, twice successfully descended into the Belmont Mine inferno to bring confused and unconscious co-workers to the surface. Said to say "he was nearly done in," he made his third descent into the mine. This would be his last. In 2006, a statue was erected and dedicated in Tonopah to "Big Bill," the hero of the Belmont Mine Fire.

**1916** — [Pennsylvania Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/pennsylvania_mine.htm), Butte, Montana — Approximately 195 men were hoisted to the surface in less than 45 minutes after the discovery of the fire. Six men escaped through the 1,000-foot level to the Tramway mine. Subsequently, two men lost their lives while wearing Dräger apparatus during rescue and recovery work.

**1918** — Carthage Fuel Company, [Mine Exploration Fatality](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/carthage.htm), Carthage, New Mexico — On February 26, 1918, David Murphy, an experienced mine rescue volunteer from Dawson, New Mexico, lost his life while wearing a Fleuss mouthpiece-type oxygen breathing apparatus during an exploration trip in the Government mine of the Carthage Fuel Company, Carthage, New Mexico.

**1921** — [Sahara No. 8 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/sahara_news_only.htm), Illinois — Three men lost their lives by suffocation in oxygen apparatus while opening a fire sealed area to see if the fire was extinguished. The oxygen of one of the three man crew was fully consumed and the two other men used up all their oxygen in attempted rescue of the one man who went down.

**1926** — [Nelson Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/nelson.htm), Nelson Creek, Kentucky — Immediately after the blast, Cecil Fulkerson, manager, led a squad of rescue men into the pit. With him were Archie and Leonard Huter and George Brandon, Jr., whose fathers were killed in the explosion. Archie Huter, Brandon, and two others were asphyxiated by black damp. Fulkerson and Leonard Huter were overcome by the gas and their condition was serious.

**1930** — [Standard Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/standard_news_only.htm), Standardville, Utah — The three men in the connected No. 3 mine were killed by the forces, and 17 of those in No. 1 mine died in the afterdamp. Five of the men in No. 1 mine successfully barricaded themselves and were rescued. Three men of a fresh air crew were killed by a falling roof slab on February 7. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2199&dat=19300208&id=mC9XAAAAIBAJ&sjid=xEMNAAAAIBAJ&pg=5293,5793572).

**1943** — [C. F. H. (Mulcahy) Mine Cave-in](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mulcaby.htm), Shullsburg, Wisconsin — Two of the victims were buried in an initial collapse, which occurred while they were preparing to shoot down a section of the rock suspected of being weak. Six others were buried in a second cave-in, which occurred while they were attempting to dig out the bodies of the first two men.

**1943** — [Smith No. 3 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/bearcreekmtn.htm), Bearcreek Mountain, Montana — One rescuer later succumbed from the toxic gas, after spending days looking for the miners.

**1958** — Unnamed Mine Avalanche, Ouray, Colorado — Walter Alton Smith died while aiding in an attempt to rescue Edward L. Mason following an avalanche, Ouray, Colorado, February 14, 1958. While Mason, 44, assistant mine foreman, was making his way to a mining camp through snow on a road in a mountain canyon, an avalanche occurred, burying him in a bank of snow 20 feet deep that covered the road for 500 feet. Another man some distance behind him was caught at the edge of the avalanche but succeeded in digging himself out. He made his way to the camp a mile and a half away and summoned help. Despite the threat of a four-month accumulation of snow in dangerous slide areas on the mountains, Smith, 46, mine foreman, and another man, each operating a bulldozer, began clearing the road to the snow bank, aided by a miner who used a probing pole to determine depths. Nearly three hours later, one of the bulldozers ceased to function within 600 feet of the snow bank. As the three men discussed further action, a second and larger avalanche began at the mountain crest 2,800 feet above them. Smith and the two other men ran along the road in an effort to escape the snow surging swiftly down the mountainside, but all were buried in a snow bank as much as 30 feet deep covering the road for 1,500 feet. Rescue parties recovered their bodies six days later. Mason’s body was located the next day. Walter Smith was posthumously bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his brave attempts. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=44366).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Successful Mine Rescues in March**

**1871** — [E. Bast and Company Breaker Boiler Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/bast.htm), Ashland, Pennsylvania — Following the boiler explosion at the E. Bast and Company Breaker, Mark Daniels was buried in the scalding, burning debris. Through the almost superhuman efforts of six men, he was rescued from the terrible position in which he was suffering the most excruciating torture and slowly burning to death. Sadly, he died a few hours later, after suffering such agonies as beggar description.

**1881** — [Almy No. 2 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/almy_news_only.htm), Almy, Wyoming — After an **undisclosed period** following the Almy No. 2 mine explosion, two of the white miners were brought out in a crippled condition, and 15 Chinamen were rescued through the ventilating shaft, all of whom were more or less injured.

**1886** — [Uniondale Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/uniondale_news_only.htm), Dunbar, Pennsylvania — After an **undisclosed period**, a rescue party led by Columbus Shay, of the Mahoning works, and James Henderson, of the Calvin mine managed to get past the flames and smoke to the injured miners. They were lying in every direction buried under masses of debris. Several of them were horribly burned. Their sufferings were terrible. Twelve of them were found almost in a dying condition and two others were dead -- mangled almost into an unrecognizable mass. The names of those killed are John Williams and Joseph Cope.

**1897** — [Kansas and Texas No. 44 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/kansas_and_texas.htm), Huntington, Arkansas — Immediately after the explosion, Mine Superintendent Vail directed the work the work of looking for those unable to walk up the slope. One by one the more seriously injured were brought out and taken to their homes in hacks and wagons. How many of the men are burned internally the doctors could not say, as their efforts were employed solely in dressing their wounds.

**1906** — [Century No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/century_news_only.htm), Century, West Virginia — Within **one hour** after the accident Superintendent James Ward had a relief gang in the mine. The first trip out brought ten men, five dead and five badly burned. During the second expedition, twenty injured men were making their way towards the bottom of the shaft and were brought to the surface by the rescuers.

**1912** — Following an explosion and cave-in, a total of 25 workmen were rescued after an **undisclosed period** from the [San Bois No. 2 coal mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/san_bois_news_only.htm) near McCurtain, Oklahoma. Of the last 14 rescued, three had to be removed by stretcher. They were located in a small area where they had placed a curtain to exclude foul air. Tapping sounds through a water pipe led to their discovery. 73 miners perished in the disaster. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=950&dat=19120322&id=3YQLAAAAIBAJ&sjid=6lMDAAAAIBAJ&pg=5252,1263294).

**1915** — On March 2, 1915, an explosion occurred at the [Layland No. 3 Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/layland.htm) in Layland, West Virginia. The explosion occurred at 8:30 a.m., resulting in the deaths of 114 men inside the mine and 1 outside. Fifty-four men afterward escaped alive from the mine. Seven came out from **2 to 5 hours** after the explosion; 5 more escaped unassisted at 8 a.m. on March 6 (**4 days** later), and 42 others were rescued **an hour** later. Of those killed, 44 died from suffocation. The store porter passing the drift mouth at a distance of 100 feet at the time of the explosion was hurled against a post and killed.

**1916** — [King Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/king.htm), Kimball, West Virginia — Following the explosion, rescuers worked throughout the morning to free a large number of miners. Masses of coal and slate and cut off their escape. At 2 p.m., it was stated that all the men who had entered the mine had been accounted for.

**1924** — [Yukon No. 2 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/Yukon.htm), Yukon, West Virginia — After an **undisclosed period** following the explosion, six of the thirty-two men in No. 2 mine escaped death, and were rescued by fellow workmen from the No. 1 mine.

**1926** — In Eccles, West Virginia, ten miners were imprisoned in the [Crab Orchard No. 5 mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/crab_orchard_news_only.htm) for **26 hours** following an explosion there. The men credited their rescue to the experience and coolness of P. J. Davis, night foreman and the leader of the little band. He had the men build a wall of lumber, stones and soft mud, which experts said, would have successfully repelled the foul air indefinitely.

**1929** — [Kinloch Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/kinloch_news_only.htm), Parnassus, Pennsylvania — Lawrence Allshouse, aged 28, was found alive and carried from the pit. Still alive after lying in an injured condition for **twenty-seven hours**, Allshouse was removed to a hospital where it was said he probably would die. He was semi-conscious.

**1930** — [New Peerless Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/new_peerless_news_only.htm), Helper, Utah — Eight men escaped alive after the blast. A. L. Ross and L. S. King were burned about the face and hands and badly gassed. They owe their lives to Vic Bain and Tony Canrinker, who placed the injured men in a mine car and signaled to have it drawn from the mine, but the apparatus was damaged by the explosion and failed to function. Bain and Canrinker then carried Ross and King toward the entrance of the mine until they encountered fresh air. Others rescued were B. W. Hall, Ole Swenson, Roy Story and Frank Hensley.

**1930** — [Wolf Run Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/wolf_run_news_only.htm), Amsterdam, Ohio — Owing their lives to the desperate work of the Steubenville Fire Department and mine rescue squads, 87 miners were brought out of the mine after an **undisclosed period**. About a dozen of them were unconscious when carried to the surface. Two rescuers, Sidney Wales and Arnold Horton, collapsed from exhaustion after trampling for miles searching for workmen. Two other miners died in the accident.

**1933** — Bootleg anthracite miner, John Cheslock, was rescued from the abandoned Sayre colliery near Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania. In a state of collapse, but conscious, Cheslock was rescued following a **4 day** entrapment. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2202&dat=19330330&id=R5olAAAAIBAJ&sjid=kvUFAAAAIBAJ&pg=6956,3131612&hl=en).

**1935** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Starford, Pennsylvania — John S. Korfonta sustained fatal injuries attempting to help rescue Francis R. Yaros from a mine cave-in, Starford, Pennsylvania, March 11, 1935. While Yaros, 21, was close to the face of the coal at the end of a heading of a mine, a rock six feet and a half in diameter and from two to 15 inches thick fell from the roof onto him. The rock lay two feet from the face of the coal between two parallel rows of posts eight feet apart. Only Yaros's feet and ankles extended from under the rock. Frank L. Russell, Jr., heard the crash and went to another heading, where he notified Korfonta, 46, miner; J. Clair Irvin; Joseph C. Resovsky; and another man. Irvin, closely followed by Russell, Resovsky, and the other man, hurried through a crosscut and the heading to the rock and then crawled over it to positions between the rock and the face of the coal. Russell placed a crowbar beneath the edge of the rock, and his companions placed their hands beneath the rock to lift it. Korfonta then reached the rock and began to crawl over it. Another rock, five feet wide and eight inches thick, fell and knocked him aside onto loose slate. Slate dribbled from the roof, and the men feared another fall. After standing aside a moment, Irvin and Resovsky lifted a part of the rock, which had been split by the second rock, from Yaros's legs. Russell and Resovsky then lifted the rock from Yaros's back. Irvin grasped Yaros's ankles and pulled him to the face of the coal. Russell and Irvin then carried Yaros toward the other side of the heading, the roof of which was amply supported by crossbeams, then for 25 feet over a pile of slate to a safe part of the heading. Resovsky remained with Korfonta. Russell ran to the entrance of the mine for help. Irvin returned to the rock and crawled over the loose slate to Korfonta and Resovsky. He and Resovsky then carried Korfonta over the same course to the crosscut and the other heading. In the meantime, Yaros died. Korfonta was placed in a minecar and hauled out of the mine. He died of his injuries that evening. J. Clair Irvin, Frank L. Russell, Jr., Joseph C. Resovsky and John S. Korfonta (posthumously) were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=34652).

**1936** — Gus Brown and his three husky sons rescued “Fannie,” their pet pony from the family coal mine in Louis Hollow near Crooksville, Ohio. Fannie, trapped **19 days** due to a cave-in, emerged sleepily and appeared none the worse for her experience. The pony, led through hastily-driven shafts was taken into the Brown home and given a warm place by the kitchen stove. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=950&dat=19360317&id=IPZPAAAAIBAJ&sjid=WFUDAAAAIBAJ&pg=2870,5472306&hl=en).

**1938** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Birmingham, Alabama — Oliver Busby, 49, mine foreman, saved Coleman Burrell, 25, trackman's helper, from bleeding and a cave-in in a mine, Birmingham, Alabama, March 28, 1938. When runaway mine cars in a coal-mine collided with standing cars, Burrell was knocked to his knees between the ends of two cars, the car’s coming to a stop after one of them had dislodged two roof supports. The roof began slowly to sag above Burrell. Burrell's leg was caught under a car and was fractured; and an artery was severed, from which blood spurted. B Busby crawled under the sagging roof to Burrell. Lying on his side in a confined space on the floor, he pressed the artery, stopping the flow of blood almost entirely. He was thus engaged for 10 minutes, all the time regarding the sagging roof with apprehension. The car was then raised, and Burrell was carried to safety. A very short time later roof timbers came to rest on the car alongside of which Busby had lain; and a large rock slid down on it, followed by a fall of small rock. Burrell's leg later was amputated. Oliver Busby was bestowed the Carnegie Hero award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=37170).

**1940** — [Willow Grove No. 10 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/willow_grove.htm) - An explosion in this mine resulted in the death of 72 miners. Twenty-two others were overcome by afterdamp, rescued and taken to the surface. Seventy-nine uninjured men were temporarily imprisoned and rescued **five hours** later. Investigators believe that the explosion was caused by the firing of a shot charged with black powder.

**1942** — Teddy the mule was rescued following an **8-day** entrapment after a roof fall occurred in the Cracker Jack mine near Boulder, Colorado. Teddy survived the ordeal by nibbling on bark from pine roof props and drinking from pools of water in the damp mine. The owner, Joe Robertson, turned Teddy out to pasture to rest for a month following his ordeal. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=336&dat=19420312&id=rYFSAAAAIBAJ&sjid=kEcDAAAAIBAJ&pg=5072,1007073).

**1943** — Unnamed Anthracite Coal Mine Cave-in, Inkerman, Pennsylvania — Henry R. Skibitski, 32, coal miner; and John Kuchinsky, 37, coal mine, helped to rescue Frank Chas, 44, mine laborer, from a cave-in in a mine, Inkerman, Pennsylvania, March 30, 1943. Two runaway mine cars were derailed in an air-course of a coal mine, causing the roof to collapse for 17 feet in the air-course and in a cross-cut that extended six feet off the air-course at one end of the cave-in. Chas, who was in the cross-cut, was pinned by a timber on which rock rested. While the debris moved and settled somewhat and a few rocks fell, Skibitski, followed by John Kuchinsky, from the end of the cave-in crawled 12 feet in a narrow passageway at one side of the cave-in under debris and reached Chas. They placed blocks under the timber; and with bars Kuchinsky and then Skibitski dug at rocks under Chas, freeing him. They dragged Chas into the air-course, lifted him across one of the cars, and lowered him to the floor beyond the inner end of the cave-in. Chas had sustained a cut on his head, and his legs were numb. Twenty minutes later, the debris having fairly well settled, Kuchinsky aided Chas over the car; and all crawled through the passageway into a safe section of the mine. Chas recovered. Skibitski and Kuchinsky were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=39973).

**1947** — [Centralia No. 5 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/centralia.htm), Centralia, Illinois — Rescue workers kept digging in a gaseous, clogged-up passage 540 feet underground. The picking and the toiling slow work in the thick of the lingering fumes, in about **20 hours** had accounted for only nine survivors of the 131 who were caught in the blast just a few minutes before quitting time.

**1957** — [Abandoned Coal Mine](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=266&dat=19570528&id=I-4rAAAAIBAJ&sjid=eWcFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2427,4543136&hl=en), Harlan, Kentucky — 50-year-old, Cantrell Owens, was rescued from an abandoned Kentucky coal mine near Harlan after spending more than **2 days** lost in mine. Rescuers had to give up the search once because of the foul air they encountered.

**1969** — William "Buck" Jones was rescued **8 days** following a cave-in at the Deep Lark lead, zinc and silver mine near Lark, Utah. The elderly miner was tired but able to laugh following his ordeal. He was greeted on the surface by his wife and 11 children. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=348&dat=19690310&id=fllMAAAAIBAJ&sjid=rjEDAAAAIBAJ&pg=2935,1043215).

**1977** — Ronald Adley survived after being trapped for nearly **6 days** following an inundation of water at the [Porter Tunnel Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/portertunnel.htm) owned by the Kocher Coal Company in Tower City, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. Nine miners were killed in the accident.

**1979** — Trapped for **6½ hours** by a rockslide at the Upper Taggert Coal Mine at Oven Fork, Kentucky, Larkin Napier was rescued. Two other miners, Grant Sturgill and Ernest Stetzer, were crushed by the falling rock. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1338&dat=19790315&id=DFtOAAAAIBAJ&sjid=HvkDAAAAIBAJ&pg=5142,4034418).

**Rescuer Deaths in March**

**1905** — [Rush Run and Red Ash Mine Explosions](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/rush_run.htm), Red Ash, West Virginia — Five hours after the mine ceased operations for the day, an explosion occurred in the Rush Run mine, in which 8 men lost their lives. The explosion extended into the Red Ash mine, where 5 more men lost their lives. To rescue these men, 11 men entered the Rush Run mine and were lost in a second explosion. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2209&dat=19050320&id=Pg5AAAAAIBAJ&sjid=KqQMAAAAIBAJ&pg=6918,3578259).

**1907** — [Seattle Electric Company](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/seattle.htm), Renton County, Washington — Victim’s little son was waiting for his father to finish work so that he might ride the horse to the barn. As the father was dumping his last car, the boy fell into the hot ashes. The father jumped to rescue him and both were so badly burned that they died a few days later.

**1908** — [Hanna No. 1 Mine Explosions](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/hanna_news_only.htm), Hanna, Wyoming — Mine Superintendent, Alexander Briggs, along with 19 volunteers were killed by an explosion in the Union Pacific Coal Company’s Hanna No. 1 mine. This group had gone into the mine to fight a fire that had been raging there since the previous Saturday. A short time later, a second explosion occurred in the mine, killing 39 others, including State Mine Inspector, D. M. Elie, who had gone into the mine with hopes of rescuing the first group. In all, 59 were killed in this disaster.

**1915** — At Black Hawk, Utah, Grant S. Miller, a member of the Black Hawk Coal Company's rescue crew, was overcome while fighting a mine fire, and died in spite of courageous efforts of his comrades to save his life. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1915_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1924** — [Castle Gate No. 2 Mine Explosions](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/castle_gate.htm), Castle Gate, Utah — Two helmetmen were overcome, and late Saturday, George Wilson, head of a crew from Standardville, died from asphyxiation when the nose piece of his helmet became detached several hundred feet inside the main portal.

**1935** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Starford, Pennsylvania — John S. Korfonta sustained fatal injuries attempting to help rescue Francis R. Yaros from a mine cave-in, Starford, Pennsylvania, March 11, 1935. While Yaros, 21, was close to the face of the coal at the end of a heading of a mine, a rock six feet and a half in diameter and from two to 15 inches thick fell from the roof onto him. The rock lay two feet from the face of the coal between two parallel rows of posts eight feet apart. Only Yaros's feet and ankles extended from under the rock. Frank L. Russell, Jr., heard the crash and went to another heading, where he notified Korfonta, 46, miner; J. Clair Irvin; Joseph C. Resovsky; and another man. Irvin, closely followed by Russell, Resovsky, and the other man, hurried through a crosscut and the heading to the rock and then crawled over it to positions between the rock and the face of the coal. Russell placed a crowbar beneath the edge of the rock, and his companions placed their hands beneath the rock to lift it. Korfonta then reached the rock and began to crawl over it. Another rock, five feet wide and eight inches thick, fell and knocked him aside onto loose slate. Slate dribbled from the roof, and the men feared another fall. After standing aside a moment, Irvin and Resovsky lifted a part of the rock, which had been split by the second rock, from Yaros's legs. Russell and Resovsky then lifted the rock from Yaros's back. Irvin grasped Yaros's ankles and pulled him to the face of the coal. Russell and Irvin then carried Yaros toward the other side of the heading, the roof of which was amply supported by crossbeams, then for 25 feet over a pile of slate to a safe part of the heading. Resovsky remained with Korfonta. Russell ran to the entrance of the mine for help. Irvin returned to the rock and crawled over the loose slate to Korfonta and Resovsky. He and Resovsky then carried Korfonta over the same course to the crosscut and the other heading. In the meantime, Yaros died. Korfonta was placed in a minecar and hauled out of the mine. He died of his injuries that evening. J. Clair Irvin, Frank L. Russell, Jr., Joseph C. Resovsky and John S. Korfonta (posthumously) were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=34652).

**1937** — [Kramer Mine Explosions](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/kramer_news_only.htm), DuBois, Pennsylvania — A spark from a locomotive ignited a body of methane in the first explosion, a fire ignited the 2nd. Two were killed in the first explosion and 7 were killed in the second explosion. The others died in an effort to rescue their fellow man, when a second explosion of gas took place. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=888&dat=19370329&id=6b9SAAAAIBAJ&sjid=g30DAAAAIBAJ&pg=5411,4466114).

**1940** — [Willow Grove No. 10 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/willow_grove.htm), Neffs, Ohio — On this Saturday morning 176 men were in the mine, when an explosion killed 66 by burns and violence and 3 by burns and afterdamp. Two others attempting rescue were asphyxiated, and 1 rescued man died 6 days later from the effects of afterdamp.

**1944** — [Katherine No. 4 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/katherine_news_only.htm), Shinnston, West Virginia — Firefighting crews were formed after all miners were withdrawn from the Katherine No. 4 mine to fight a fire discovered there at 11:00 p.m. A subsequent explosion of methane and coal dust occurred, killing everyone in the mine fighting the fire at the time. Windows were shattered in homes 2 miles away and buildings were rocked.

**1946** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Girardville, Pennsylvania — Edward Eugene Carey, 42, coal inspector, died attempting to rescue John Haluska, 33, truck driver, from a cave-in at a culm bank, Girardville, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1946. When rocks, coal, and clay for eight feet from the top of a culm bank 60 feet high began to roll and slide down, Haluska was caught and buried upright to his waist. Carey and three other men ran to Haluska and with their hands removed the culm from around him, freeing him except for one foot. As Carey sat on his haunches continuing his efforts, he shouted a warning to the other men that a second slide had started, and they ran clear of the slide area. Carey worked to free Haluska for a second or two longer and then started to follow the others. After taking a step or two, the slide reached him; and he fell. Carey and Haluska were buried under culm five feet deep. Both were dead when removed three hours later. Posthumously, Mr. Carey was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=40639).

**1953** — [O'Brien Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/obrien_news_only.htm), Lovilia, Iowa — Three of the victims of the O'Brien mine disaster were men in an inspection party which entered the mine several hours after the original explosion. They were **Gerald Lane**, 59; **James Love**, 54, and **Thomas Little**, 48. They were in a party of five which entered the mine to look it over. Love earlier had been a member of the squad which brought out the bodies of Harold Barnes and Ben Nichols.

**1971** — [Nemacolin Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/nemacolin.htm), Nemacolin, Pennsylvania — On April 16, 1971, at about 1:30 p.m., William L. Groves, State Deep Mine Inspector, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, was accidentally drowned during the firefighting operations.

**1976** — [Scotia Mine Explosions](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/scotia.htm), Ovenfork, Kentucky — On March 11, 1976, at the time of the second explosion, 13 men were underground near the entrance of 2 Southeast Main; 11 died as the result of the explosion and 2 repairmen working a short distance outby escaped without injury. Among the 11 killed on March 11 were 3 Federal Mine Inspectors: Kenneth Kiser, age 45; Richard Sammons, age 55; and Grover Tussey, age 45. This disaster gave birth to the [Health and Safety Act of 1977](http://arlweb.msha.gov/REGS/ACT/ACTTC.HTM), including new rules for mine rescue teams, stations, and training.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Successful Mine Rescues in April**

**1905** — [Cabin Creek Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/cabin_creek.htm), Kayford, West Virginia — Nine men were still within the mine when the explosion occurred. Of these, four reached safety with the assistance of friends. Three of the number were so seriously injured that they are not expected to live. Those rescued were William Jacobs, George Eastman, Morrey Darby and William Robinson. The last three men were seriously injured.

**1907** — Seven miners were rescued **after 100 hours** in the flooded Mine No. 38 of the Berwind-White Operations at Foustwell, Pennsylvania. Their rescue was made possible by the bravery of Stiney Rodon and Charles Ream who located the men by swimming 50 feet through a water-filled heading. Earlier, four others made a similar attempt, but were unsuccessful and returned half-drowned. Mike Boyla, a mine contractor, took charge of the group of trapped men and led them to the highest point in the heading where they waited for rescuers. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1297&dat=19070501&id=nelNAAAAIBAJ&sjid=cYoDAAAAIBAJ&pg=6337,4655473&hl=en).

**1910** — [Amsterdam No. 2 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/amsterdam__1910_news_only.htm), Amsterdam, Ohio — Seven bruised and burned men were rescued alive after an **undisclosed period** from the pit of the Youghiogheny and Ohio Coal Company's mine at Amsterdam where a terrific explosion snuffed out the lives of fifteen other miners.

**1910** — [Nazareth Limestone Quarry Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/nazareth_news_only.htm), Nazareth, Pennsylvania — A large force of men made every effort to reach the victims, but it was some time before the first man was found. He was still breathing, but unconscious and that he might die at any moment. All the victims were Hungarians and Italians and were known about the quarry only by numbers.

**1913** — Sixty-seven miners escaped from the Cincinnati Mine following the explosion that claimed 98 lives on April 23, 1913, including one apparatus wearing rescuer. Two miners were rescued after **60 hours**. [*See more*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/Cincinnati.htm). [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1126&dat=19130426&id=VmwxAAAAIBAJ&sjid=X2YDAAAAIBAJ&pg=1781,5783173).

**1914** — [Eccles Nos. 5 and 6 Mine Explosions](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/eccles.htm), Eccles, West Virginia — A rescue party was rushed to the scene of the disaster from Beckley, which is only two miles away, but after removing two men from the debris of No. 6 their activities were checked by the deadening fumes of coal gas. Later the party was more successful in bringing forty more men to the surface. Two of the men, P. M. Ellison and N. Jones, were seriously injured.

Supt. Donaldson, an experienced miner, with an expert rescue crew, was lowered down the shaft of No. 6 mine. For a time the steadily growing crowd of frightened women and children waited in suspense, but soon the signal came to hoist away and the cage responded. It bore two men badly hurt, a few of the rescue party, and two bodies.

**1927** — [Federal No. 3 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/federal_no3.htm), Everettville, West Virginia — Nine men were cut off in the south main section until one came out through the smoke and returned with a party wearing self-rescuers. The eight men who had barricaded themselves in a room were supplied with self-rescuers and walked out after an **undisclosed period**.

**1934** — Sinclair Mine Fire, Switz, Indiana - Five miners escaped death in the Sinclair mine after fire broke out there. They walled themselves into a space 24 by 12 feet for an undisclosed period more than 100 yards away from the blazing wooden shaft, and awaited rescue. The rescued miners were Jack Hineman, Dennis Combs, Thomas Barnett, Henry Johnson, and Roll Himebrook.[*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=897&dat=19340404&id=l6NaAAAAIBAJ&sjid=_08DAAAAIBAJ&pg=6014,4425991&hl=en)*.*

**1937** — Toiling for **27 hours**, rescue squads removed Anthony Vinscavage, 48, from a "bootleg" coal hole near Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. Vinscavage was trapped while working with son, John, who had escaped and called for rescuers. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19370510&id=cc9WAAAAIBAJ&sjid=NEINAAAAIBAJ&pg=3737,2031280&hl=en).

**1946** — [Great Valley Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/great_valley_news_only.htm), McCoy, Virginia — A rescue squad from Radford donned gas masks and made its way to the site shortly after the explosion. Eleven were found dead of burns. The twelfth miner, Paul Price, was brought to the surface but died without regaining consciousness at a hospital here.

**1951** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Shaft, Pennsylvania — Henry W. Eckley, Sr., 61, coal miner, died as the result of attempting to rescue Anthony Woznicki, 46, coal miner, from a cave-in. During the course of the rescue, a large quantity of debris fell from near the ceiling and partially buried Eckley, who sustained severe internal injuries and a broken leg. Eckley and Woznicki were removed from the entry by other miners and were taken to the surface. Woznicki was disabled six months. Eckley succumbed to injuries three days later. Posthumously, Mr. Eckley was awarded the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=42277).

**1956** — A roof fall at the Kaiser Coal Company mine near Sunnyside, Utah occurred trapping 4 miners. Three of the miners were rescued after **44 hours**. The rescued were Lavell Golding, Joe Archuletta and Lloyd Allen Heath. Deceased in the accident was Joseph Otterstrom. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1338&dat=19560420&id=EftXAAAAIBAJ&sjid=xfYDAAAAIBAJ&pg=1655,2694894&hl=en).

**1968** — Two Carlsbad, New Mexico miners trapped over **34 hours** were rescued by workers using their bare hands and chisels. They became trapped when a 50-foot potash slab collapsed in the Southwest Potash Company mine. The two miners rescued were Fred Crabtree and Arnold Delso. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1946&dat=19680412&id=mwIuAAAAIBAJ&sjid=EaAFAAAAIBAJ&pg=5489,2712623&hl=en).

**1980** — Clyde Waddell was rescued **13 hours** after a roof fall at the Florence Mine near Huff, Pennsylvania. The mine was owned by the Florence Mining Company. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1346&dat=19800426&id=h44sAAAAIBAJ&sjid=JPsDAAAAIBAJ&pg=6927,3874137).

**1981** — [Dutch Creek No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/dutch_creek.htm), Redstone, Colorado — Seven miners working in other areas of the mine at the time of the explosion survived. Three were injured and were rescued; the other four were not injured and escaped unassisted to the surface. The injured miners were admitted to Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs for treatment of burns, bruises and shock. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2002&dat=19810416&id=qhwvAAAAIBAJ&sjid=7toFAAAAIBAJ&pg=3051,3296149&hl=en).

**1985** — Trapped for **37 hours** following a roof fall accident, Curtis Sanders was rescued and walked out of the Powderhorn Mine in DeBeque Canyon, Colorado. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1696&dat=19850418&id=KAQbAAAAIBAJ&sjid=EEgEAAAAIBAJ&pg=6814,3635550).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rescuer Deaths in April**

**1887** — [Old Savanna No. 2 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/old_savanna.htm), Savanna, Oklahoma — Thirteen miners were overcome by toxic gas and suffocated while attempting to rescue the 6 victims of an explosion which occurred in the Old Savanna No. 2 mine near Savanna, Oklahoma.

**1905** — [Zeigler Mine Explosions](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/zeigler_news_only.htm), Zeigler, Illinois — 49 miners died as a result of two explosions in the Zeigler Mine. In an effort to recover the entombed men, five rescuers were overcome by afterdamp. The rescuers were let down by hand. In two instances, the men above were nearly overcome by gas. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2331&dat=19050412&id=awIoAAAAIBAJ&sjid=CwUGAAAAIBAJ&pg=4038,5267926).

**1911** — [Price-Pancoast Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/price-pancoast.htm), Throop, Pennsylvania — Two pipeline men noticed smoke coming from the direction of the shaft and discovered that the North Slope engine room was on fire. When the fire in the engine room was under control, the crew noticed that the timbers and a large number of mine cars on the passing branch were also burning.

Victims included 69 miners and four rescue worker who fell victim to poisonous gas, including Joe E. Evans, who was the Foreman of Federal Rescue Car No. 1. Also killed while attempting to help others were: Walter Knight, mine foreman; Isaac Dawe, fire boss; and John R. Perry. These men rushed beyond the flames to warn others farther in the workings.

**1913** — [Cincinnati Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/Cincinnati.htm), Finleyville, Pennsylvania — An explosion occurred in which 97 men were killed and subsequently one of the rescue party wearing breathing apparatus lost his life. About 167 men were in the mine at the time of the explosion. About 67 escaped uninjured through old workings, and three were rescued alive - one by the first rescue parties and 2 some sixty-hours later by exploring parties.

**1917** — [Hastings Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/hastings.htm), Hastings, Colorado — On May 6, 1917, Walter Kerr, a member of a mine rescue team of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, died wearing a Dräger 2-hour oxygen breathing apparatus, while helping to recover bodies, after an explosion in the Hastings mine of the Victor-American Fuel Company, Hastings, Colorado, in which 121 men were killed. The explosion was caused by a mine inspector striking a match to relight his safety lamp about 120 feet from the face of 7 South entry.

**1917** — [Mountain King Mine Asphyxiation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mountain_mine.htm), Mariposa County, California — Two men obtained permission from the mine foreman to investigate the results of blasting on the 1,400-foot level. When they did not return, the foreman went to investigate, returned, and with two others climbed down to the 1,400-foot level, where all three were overcome. Before proper supervision could be obtained and rescue work begun, three others had attempted to help by going to the 1,400 foot level (all at different times). Only one was able to return to safety. Seven men lost their lives from asphyxiation.

**1927** — [Connellsville By-Product Company Mine Asphyxiation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/connellsville_byproduct_news_only.htm), Morgantown, West Virginia — Two mine rescue men sacrificed their lives in a fruitless effort to save a fellow rescuer from deadly gas in the Connellsville By-Product Company mine near Morgantown, WV. The three victims were part of a crew from Parnassus, PA. Crews of helmet men were sent in to explore sealed workings to determine whether flooding of the mine had extinguished a fire. C. Roy Rushton, Frank Burns and William Heagy formed this crew. For some unexplained reason, Rushton removed the mouthpiece of his breathing apparatus. He soon collapsed, a victim of carbon monoxide.

**1951** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Shaft, Pennsylvania — Henry W. Eckley, Sr., 61, coal miner, died as the result of attempting to rescue Anthony Woznicki, 46, coal miner, from a cave-in. During the course of the rescue, a large quantity of debris fell from near the ceiling and partially buried Eckley, who sustained severe internal injuries and a broken leg. Eckley and Woznicki were removed from the entry by other miners and were taken to the surface. Woznicki was disabled six months. Eckley succumbed to injuries three days later. Posthumously, Mr. Eckley was awarded the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=42277).

**1971** — [Barnett Complex H2S Poisoning](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/barnett.htm), Rosiclare, Illinois — Two brothers, William and Philip Long, entered an area of the mine and were subsequently overcome by Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S) gas. An additional 5 employees made several attempts to reach the Long brothers and bring them to fresh air. After finally reaching the downed brothers and loading them onto a locomotive to bring them out, they too were overcome and killed by the toxic gas.

**1978** — [Moss No. 3 Portal A Inundation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/clinchfield_moss3.htm), Duty, Virginia — Two of the four miners who were advancing the drainway when the inundation occurred successfully retreated to the surface (one dragged the other). However, the other two miners perished. The blackdamp also killed three other men who went underground without protective equipment or adequate gas testing equipment to search for the missing men. Similarly unequipped during rescue attempts, two other men were also overcome by blackdamp, but were successfully assisted to the surface. The deceased included the Mine Superintendent, the MSHA Sub-District Manager and a Service Manager from National Mine Service. Posthumously, Willis D. Ison was bestowed a Valor Award for bravery.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Successful Mine Rescues in May**

**1871** — [West Pittston Colliery Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/west_pittston_1871_news_only.htm), West Pittston, Pennsylvania — The anticipation was palpable as rescuers worked through the night and into the next day. At 12:30 a.m. (**10 hours later**) they brought Andrew Morgan to the surface in an unconscious state. Learning that more miners had barricaded, they sent out for more men and tools. Up to **22 hours** after the fire was first discovered, around twenty more miners, not more than alive were brought out. Only one or two recovered enough to give an account of themselves. It is not known how many of those rescued survived.

**1877** — [Wadesville Colliery Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/wadesville_news_only.htm), Wadesville, Pennsylvania — Men working in other parts of the mine knew that something terrible had happened, and rushed to learn the fate of their comrades. They found seven miners so terribly burned and bruised that one of them died in a short time. James Libby was brought out alive, but died in a few hours. He was fearfully burned.

**1890** — [Jersey No. 8 Cave-in and Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/jersey_news_only.htm), Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company, Ashley, Pennsylvania - Three badly injured miners: Anthony Froyne; fire boss John Allen; and Robert W. Roberts were rescued from the Jersey No. 8 mine of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company following a cave-in and explosion. Their entrapment ranged from **9 to 14 hours**. Sadly, all three men died from their extensive injuries after their rescue. Ironically, it was asserted that John Allen’s lamp caused the explosion. Had he not done so, all could have been rescued alive, as there was a current of air going through the chamber where the men had taken refuge, after the cave-in had taken place. [*See more*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/jersey_news_only.htm).

**1900** — [Cumnock Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/cumnock2_news_only.htm), Cumnock, North Carolina — The accident was in what was known as the east heading. Between forty and fifty men were in the mine at the time. Five were brought out alive from the east heading after an **undisclosed period**, while none of the men in the other parts of the mine were injured.

**1908** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Salineville, Ohio — Francis C. Skinner, 32, stationary engineer, died attempting to rescue Wesley J. Wright, 48, and John W. Rowe, 36, in a mine, Salineville, Ohio, May 27, 1908. Wright and Rowe were disabled by an explosion, and Skinner, with others, was lowered 180 feet down a shaft, where the carriage stuck, ropes being used to get to the bottom 20 feet farther. Having been released from debris, Wright was being carried to the shaft when a piece of timber fell, striking Skinner on the head and killing him instantly. Francis C. Skinner was posthumously bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=2772).

**1912** — [Norrie Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/Norrie_mine.htm), Oliver Iron Mining Company, Ironwood, Michigan - A party of 10 miners and 3 trammers on the night shift was walking home from the boundary of the property above the twentieth level of the mine. Hearing ground dropping, they retreated to what they thought was a safe place, the main drift, which was securely timbered and had 35 to 40 feet of solid ore above it. The cave, however, did not occur at the place where the men had been working, but in the very place of refuse to which they had retreated, crushing in the drift timbers over a length of about 80 feet. Six men were rescued alive after about **24 hours**, but one died about a week later. In all, 7 miners were killed. [*See more*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/Norrie_mine.htm).

**1913** — [Imperial Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/imperial_news_only.htm), Belle Valley, Ohio — After an **undisclosed period**, rescuers found Roy Yeager about 300 feet from the scene of the explosion. Yeager, who was alive, was unable to rise on account of a broken leg, and he probably owes his life to the broken leg. Lying on the floor, he did not inhale the fumes of the afterdamp. The rescue party carried him to a mine car and started toward the entrance.

**1917** — Abandoned Anthracite Mine Cave-in, Pittston, Pennsylvania — Two boys, Sylvester W. McKeon, age 12 and Robert E. Fear, age 13, were rescued after they descended the slope of a hole that had caved in the ground and entered the chamber of an old mine to gather coal. They were caught by a fall of earth overhanging the entrance to the chamber. Sylvester was buried to his hips, and Robert was buried to his chest. Cracks at the top of the hole and the dropping of clay earth overhanging the chamber indicated another cave-in was imminent. Their rescuers were Michael J. Franklin, Edward F. Norton, and Patrick J. Gallagher, both track layers. After an undisclosed period, the men first extracted Sylvester followed by Robert. The three men were awarded the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=17969).

**1919** — After almost **10 hours** of tunneling, Andrew Coshosky, trapped under a fall of slate in the Old Colony Mine, Ligonier, Pennsylvania, was rescued and expected to recover. Covered to a depth of 30 feet, the only way to reach him was to drive a tunnel under the fallen mass of rock. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1126&dat=19190523&id=WodRAAAAIBAJ&sjid=omgDAAAAIBAJ&pg=4517,5847664&hl=en).

**1927** — [Delagua No. 3 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/delagua.htm), Delagua, Colorado — One hundred and thirty two men were in the Delagua No. 3 mine at the time of the blast and all with the exception of the dead and one injured man reached the surface safely through air shafts. John Walker, 62, was seriously injured and was brought out of the mine **four hours** after the explosion.

**1928** — Frank Bucsha was found alive and said to be in good condition after he was found **55 hours** following the [Mather Mine explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mather_explosion.htm) in Mather, Pennsylvania on May 19, 1928. 195 miners were killed in the blast of the mine owned by Pickands-Mather and Company. Another miner, John Wade, was rescued from the same mine after 147 hours. Mine officials said he must have been wandering around in the mine and was missed by the rescuers. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1946&dat=19280526&id=AHEtAAAAIBAJ&sjid=OIwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=4942,4580986&hl=en).

**1939** — Robert Galligan was rescued from a "bootleg" anthracite mine near Shenandoah, Pennsylvania after a cave-in trapped him in the mine for **65 hours**. During the rescue, he was heard joking and singing. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=897&dat=19390529&id=HGBPAAAAIBAJ&sjid=yU8DAAAAIBAJ&pg=6306,6685136&hl=en).

**1939** — Rescuers worked for **15 hours** to free sixty year old Joseph Babatsky after a fall of clay in a "bootleg" anthracite coal mine near Shenandoah in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. Thirty rescuers began the work shortly after the fall and as they neared him, he instructed them how to proceed. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19390511&id=3lshAAAAIBAJ&sjid=EYgFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2074,2125830&hl=en).

**1943** — [NuRex Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/nurex_news_only.htm), LaFollette, Tennessee — Eighteen coal miners, huddling behind a hastily erected canvas barrier nearly 2,000 feet underground, survived an explosion that rocked the Etna Coal and Coke Company mine and suffocated ten of their companions. The miners, fighting against the deadly fumes of "black damp" for more than **eight hours**, stumbled and crawled from their barricaded cell as rescue parties freed them.

**1948** — Edward Heck and Peter Gorton were rescued from a "bootleg" Anthracite mine near Shamokin, Pennsylvania following their **60-hour** entrapment from an inundation of water from an adjoining abandoned mine. The men said they believed their companion, Charles Bashore, was trapped in the lowest part of the mine and had no chance to escape. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1298&dat=19480515&id=nM1NAAAAIBAJ&sjid=SIoDAAAAIBAJ&pg=1866,4277104&hl=en).

**1957** — 50-year-old, Cantrell Owens, was rescued from an abandoned Kentucky coal mine near Harlan after spending more than **2 days** lost in mine. Rescuers had to give up the search once because of the foul air they encountered. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=266&dat=19570528&id=I-4rAAAAIBAJ&sjid=eWcFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2427,4543136&hl=en).

**1958** — 24 miners, trapped for more than **15 hours**, were rescued from a flooded Boone County Coal Corporation mine in Logan, West Virginia. There were no deaths reported in this accident. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=266&dat=19580509&id=i-ArAAAAIBAJ&sjid=AmcFAAAAIBAJ&pg=6414,2662537).

**1958** — [Wharton No. 2 Mine Roof Fall](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/wharton_1958.htm), West Virginia — Resulting from a roof fall in the Wharton No. 2 mine, one employee was rescued after being pinned against an air compressor for **5 hours**. Four miners were killed in the accident.

**1968** — Inundation of water at the [Saxsewell No. 8 Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/) in Hominy Falls, WV. Fifteen men were rescued **5 days** later and six others were rescued **10 days** after the inundation occurred. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19700910&id=fH8uAAAAIBAJ&sjid=KZgFAAAAIBAJ&pg=5126,5507387).

**1972** — Two men, Tom Wilkinson and Ronald Flory, were rescued and found to be in good condition after being trapped for **8 days** following the [Sunshine silver mine fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/sunshine.htm) in Kellogg, Shoshone County, Idaho. 91 miners were killed in the disaster. The four men responsible for the rescue were Wayne D. Kanack, Frank J. Delimba, and Don Morris from the U. S. Bureau of Mines, and Sonny Becker, a Sunshine miner. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1314&dat=19720509&id=Tu5LAAAAIBAJ&sjid=h-wDAAAAIBAJ&pg=7317,3511711).

**1982** — [Magma Mine Cave-in](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/magma.htm), Superior, Arizona — Three miners died between 5:30 and 6 p.m., on May 10, 1982 in three separate incidents that involved a cave-in and fall-of-ground in the Magma Copper Mine in Superior, Arizona. During a daring rescue and recovery which lasted through May 12th, one of the victims was recovered from the dangerous area, however, he died shortly thereafter from his injuries. Joseph Granillo was also entrapped in the same manner, and while his rescue was being attempted, both he and his would-be rescuer, Joseph Cassaro, were killed when additional material fell. For their brave efforts, the Carnegie Hero Award was bestowed upon Frank Aldecoa, Andy J. Arroyos, Jr., Billy Ray Evans, Henry Lopez Rodriguez, George Anthony Gomez, G. Michael Martinez (posthumously) and Joseph Cassaro (posthumously). [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=58889).

**2002** — [Abandoned Mine Rescue](http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/print/volume-156/issue-8/features/the-hazards-of-rescues-in-abandoned-mines.html), Kern County, California — While riding his dirt bike in a remote part of Kern County, California, a 10-year-old boy fell 200 feet into an abandoned mine shaft. In a rescue which lasted several hours and was executed by the Indian Wells Valley Mine Rescue Team and the Kern County Fire Department, the boy and his rescuer, Sean Halpin, were raised to the surface. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital, where he was kept 24 hours for observation and then released.

**2006** — [Darby No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/darby.htm), Holmes Mill, Kentucky — Paul Ledford, roof bolter, was rescued after more than **2 hours** following the explosion. Ledford had traveled approximately 1,050 feet in the No. 5 Entry where he collapsed and lost consciousness. He regained consciousness at approximately 3:05 a.m. and crawled into the No. 6 Entry, where he was discovered by rescuers. He was then taken out of the mine on a battery-powered personnel carrier and transported to Lonesome Pine Hospital in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, where he was treated.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rescuer Deaths in May**

**1907** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Rossiter, Pennsylvania — David Pittsley, 27, mine wireman, died attempting to save Michael Maloney, 42, from a mine cave-in, Rossiter, Pennsylvania, May 6, 1907. Maloney was knocked to the ground by a fall of rock, and, without taking time to ascertain whether there was further danger, Pittsley ran to the spot. While he endeavored to release Maloney, both were killed by a second fall. Mr. Pittsley was posthumously bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=2520).

**1908** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Salineville, Ohio — Francis C. Skinner, 32, stationary engineer, died attempting to rescue Wesley J. Wright, 48, and John W. Rowe, 36, in a mine, Salineville, Ohio, May 27, 1908. Wright and Rowe were disabled by an explosion, and Skinner, with others, was lowered 180 feet down a shaft, where the carriage stuck, ropes being used to get to the bottom 20 feet farther. Having been released from debris, Wright was being carried to the shaft when a piece of timber fell, striking Skinner on the head and killing him instantly. Francis C. Skinner was posthumously bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=2772).

**1911** — [Hartford Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/hartford.htm), Negaunee, Michigan — Within 1 hour after the discovery of the fire, an attempt was made to begin rescue operations without the aid of breathing apparatus. Three bodies were discovered. However, because of the reversal of the air current while erecting a stopping, the smoke became so dense that the shift boss ordered the men to return to the surface. One man attempted to remain and finish the stopping but was overcome. It was several hours before rescuers reached him, but he was dead. Three of the others attempted to go out to the Cambria shaft but were overcome and were revived with great difficulty.

**1913** — [Taylor Mine Asphyxiations](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/taylor_1913.htm), Hartford, Kentucky — Five men were killed by black damp in a deserted shaft of a coal mine belonging to the Taylor Mining Company. The men were working near the shaft when C. F. Frazier went to explore the abandoned digging. He fell into the water and with the four others who went to his rescue succumbed to black damp. The miners attempting to rescue Frazier included John Killers, J. P. Ramer, F. Tourk, and Jim Porter.

**1913** — [Imperial Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/imperial_news_only.htm), Belle Valley, Ohio — Henry Fairhurst, a member of the first rescue party to enter the Imperial mine following the explosion, was overcome by gas and died soon after being brought to the surface.

**1915** — [Smokeless Valley No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/smokeless_news_only.htm), Johnstown, Pennsylvania — Apparatus man succumbed during recovery work. Mr. Gomer Phillips was an employee of the Cambria Steel Company of Johnstown, PA. Mr. Phillips was a voluntary rescue man in the Johnstown explosion and came to his death while wearing the apparatus in attempting to rescue the men in the explosion. Mr. Phillips was the captain of the rescue team.

**1920** — [Mullan Tailing Plant Electrocution](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mullan_news_only.htm), Idaho — A miner was electrocuted and instantly killed at a sub-station of the Washington Water Power Plant, when he was endeavoring to rescue a patrol man of the company, whom he found burned and unconscious upon going to the sub-station to investigate the cause of the power being shut off at the plant in which he was working.

**1920** — [Submarine Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/submarine.htm), Clinton, Indiana — Following an explosion in the Submarine mine at Clinton, Indiana, James Smith, Art Thompson and Frank Hughes were victims of afterdamp while attempting to recover the body of John Howe. Jimmie Needham, also a member of the rescue party, was injured.

**1940** — [Anthracite "Bootleg" Operation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/wolfgang.htm), Eastern Pennsylvania — On May 16, 1940, Andrew Wolfgang, a foreman of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Co., and captain of a mine rescue team, lost his life while wearing a McCaa 2-hour oxygen breathing apparatus, in an attempt to rescue a miner at the bottom of a 50-foot, almost vertical, shaft at a "bootleg" mining operation.

**1975** — [Deer Creek Mine Roof Fall](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/deer_creek_news_only.htm), Huntington, Utah — A roof fall occurred in the Deep Creek mine that resulted in the death of two men. During recovery operations later the same day, another man was killed and two more injured. In an effort to help their friends, Alfred Willis of Huntington was killed and two other men were injured and hospitalized.

**1982** — [Magma Mine Cave-in](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/magma.htm), Superior, Arizona — Three miners died between 5:30 and 6 p.m., on May 10, 1982 in three separate incidents that involved a cave-in and fall-of-ground in the Magma Copper Mine in Superior, Arizona. During a daring rescue and recovery which lasted through May 12th, one of the victims was recovered from the dangerous area, however, he died shortly thereafter from his injuries. Joseph Granillo was also entrapped in the same manner, and while his rescue was being attempted, both he and his would-be rescuer, Joseph Cassaro, were killed when additional material fell. For their brave efforts, the Carnegie Hero Award was bestowed upon Frank Aldecoa, Andy J. Arroyos, Jr., Billy Ray Evans, Henry Lopez Rodriguez, George Anthony Gomez, G. Michael Martinez (posthumously) and Joseph Cassaro (posthumously). [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=58889).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Successful Mine Rescues in June**

**1901** — [Port Royal No. 2 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/port_royal_news_only.htm), Port Royal, Pennsylvania — A temporary rescue party entered the shaft after an **undisclosed period** and started toward the spot where it was thought some of the entombed men may be found. Lying at the bottom of the shaft were Lawrence Settler and John Stakes. Unconscious and covered with dirt, the men quickly were taken to the top of the mine.

**1903** — [Hanna No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/hanna1.htm), Hanna, Wyoming — About **3 hours** after the explosion, four men were taken out alive and a half hour later they were followed by forty-two others. Many were unconscious and had to be carried from the workings. Several were in a serious condition, but it was believed all would recover.

**1909** — [Lackawanna No. 4 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/lackawanna4_news_only.htm), Wehrum, Pennsylvania — Twelve miners were unconscious when rescued on the 23rd but were revived through the use of oxygen. They were placed in the temporary hospital, a machine shop, and at 3 p.m. were sent to Spangler on a special train provided by Trainmaster Henry Taylor, of Cresson.

**1912** — [Hastings Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/hastings_news_only.htm), Hastings, Colorado — Rescuers who entered the Hastings mine early on June 19 returned soon afterward with a Greek, who was badly burned.

**1915** — Rush of Mud and Water into the Longacre-Chapman Zinc Mine, Neck City, Missouri - Six men were imprisoned. Four were rescued alive after **120 hours** of difficult work by company men, volunteers, State mine Inspectors, and Bureau of Mines men. Two men found were dead on the fourteenth day following the accident. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1915_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1917** — Twenty-five of 29 miners imprisoned on the 2400-foot level of the Speculator Mine of the North Butte Mining Company were brought to the surface after being trapped for **36 hours**. They owed their lives to crew member, Manus Duggan, a 20-year-old nipper boy, who didn't make it out himself. According to Nyrja Johnson, the first man to the surface, Duggan directed all the work in their effort to barricade themselves from the gases. He had the men strip naked and use their clothes to block out the toxic gas. Duggan became lost when he went ahead of the crew to test for gases. 163 miners were killed in this disaster. [*See more*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/granite_mountain.htm). [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1314&dat=19170611&id=ZuIUAAAAIBAJ&sjid=q-ADAAAAIBAJ&pg=5717,3028088&hl=en).

**1929** — Three miners became ensnared in a cave-in at the 750-foot level of the South Eureka Mine, Sutter Creek, California. George Carevich escaped unaided and reported the accident. After **several hours**, Thomas Rodovich, who was entombed with Mike Matlick, was taken out alive but badly lacerated. While no further news about Matlick could be found, it was agreed by company officials that his chances of survival were slim. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1970&dat=19290606&id=CVQiAAAAIBAJ&sjid=IqcFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2528,5790964&hl=en).

**1933** — Joseph Terescavage, a 51-year old miner, from Shamokin, PA was rescued after having been entombed for **two days** in the collapsed Madeira Hill mine near Mt. Carmel, Pennsylvania. [*Source document*](https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/76340532/).

**1936** — Caught by crumbling rock and fallen timbers in a Helena, Montana mine, Ed Moore became held firmly by the jam. One of the owners, John Brophy, who was working with him, managed to get out and get help. Despite being warned by Moore not to come down, rescuers worked for **four hours** to free him and return him to his wife and daughter, who were waiting on the surface. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=897&dat=19360604&id=gEhPAAAAIBAJ&sjid=2E8DAAAAIBAJ&pg=5435,1145292&hl=en).

**1938** — [Butler Slope Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/butler_news_only.htm), Pittston, Pennsylvania — Rescuers were successful in bringing six miners to the surface after an **undisclosed period**. Seriously injured were John Waskiewicz and Peter Morgantini. They were treated at the Pittston Hospital for skull fractures and severe burns. Others hurt were Warner Posdzich, Peter Wasluk, Patrick Nardone, and Joseph Lusto. Lusto was the only one who reached the surface unaided. Clutching an injured wrist, he staggered out of the mouth. His wife, screaming, darted from the crowd and into his arms.

**1952** — June 2, 1952: Three of five miners were rescued after being trapped for **24 hours** by a cave-in at Republic Steel Corporation's [Penokee Iron Ore Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/penokee_news_only.htm) near Ironwood, Michigan. The rescued miners were Victor Cox, Christopher Hocking, and Mack Krecker. The body of Jerome Olkonen was later found by rescuers, lying beside his machine. The fate of the 5th miner, Serafim Zackarzewski, and is not known, although mine officials feared he would have been crushed to death in the fall of rock. [*See more*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/penokee_news_only.htm).

**1957** — Five miners were rescued from the Betsy No. 3 coal mine operated by the Powhatan Mining Company at Fernwood, Ohio. Released from their tomb after their entrapment of **14½ hours** were Hank Horvath, Martin Kovalski, Fred Sabol, Joseph Supinski, and Kenny Hamilton. The Betsy No. 3 mine is a small, "punch mining operation" that produces about 600 tons of coal per day. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=888&dat=19570627&id=VA5SAAAAIBAJ&sjid=NXYDAAAAIBAJ&pg=4840,5298066&hl=en).

**1962** — An 8-year-old boy was responsible for saving two miners caught in a cave-in at the Bull Gulch lead and zinc mine near Jefferson City, Montana. Robert Steinbacher and Henry Madison, who were both in considerable pain, were safely removed from the mine by rescuers after their brief entrapment. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2245&dat=19520616&id=1RU0AAAAIBAJ&sjid=0O4HAAAAIBAJ&pg=5500,7434057&hl=en).

**1970** — Amateur miner, Clifford J. Cox, was pulled out of the abandoned Hazard Gold Mine near Foresthill, California when he was found laying unconscious after **11 hours** in the mine. Would-be rescuer, Lester Benbow, a school teacher, died from a lack of oxygen in the incident. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1243&dat=19700622&id=cP1XAAAAIBAJ&sjid=C_cDAAAAIBAJ&pg=2963,1612453&hl=en).

**1971** — As a result of a roof fall, two miners were injured and rescued from the clogged section of an underground tunnel which is 700 feet deep and a mile and a half back in the [Eastern Associated Coal Company's Federal No. 2 Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/federal_1971_news_only.htm). Also injured and recovered from the mine were Robert Lee Strakal, 24, of Cassville, and Steven Shuman, 29, of Fairmont. Shuman died the next day from his injuries.

**1977** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Plum, Pennsylvania — Joseph R. Sabot rescued Steven T. Tady following a rock fall, Plum, Pennsylvania, June 15, 1977. In an underground coal mine, a fall of slab rock covered a mining machine and trapped Tady, 27, in the operators compartment. Sabot, 46, mine mechanic, crawled into a crevice in the rocks 10 feet from Tady and began digging a tunnel toward him. As he removed the rocks, Sabot placed shoring in the tunnel, which was about two feet wide and high. After extending the tunnel to the machine, Sabot backed out. Tady, who was uninjured, then crawled from under the rock fall by way of the tunnel. Joseph R. Sabot was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his brave efforts. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=55865).

**1983** — [McClure No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/clinchfield.htm), McClure, Virginia — Three miners at the faces survived and were rescued shortly after the explosion. Ronald Sluss, Albert Holbrook, and Carson Blackstone were returned to the surface suffering from burns and were taken to hospitals.

**Rescuer Deaths in June**

**1873** — [Henry Clay Colliery Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/henry_clay.htm), Shamokin, Pennsylvania — Soon after the explosion in the Henry Clay Colliery, **John** **Hays**, outside boss, heard the alarm of those who managed to escape, and went into the mine to rescue others. After proceeding about five hundred yards he fell, face down, in a pool of water and drowned.

**1901** — [Port Royal No. 2 Mine Explosion and Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/port_royal_news_only.htm), Port Royal, Pennsylvania — The initial blast occurred at about 6 p.m. on June 10. About 1 hour after the initial blast, Superintendent William McCune (or McComb), Dennis Wortley, Michael Roy, several other bosses, along with about 20 other men went down Shaft No. 1 in search of 4 missing miners. About 3 hours after the rescue party had been in the mine, more explosions were heard.

Four hours later, four more men volunteered to enter the mine, but as of 3 a.m. on June 11, they too had not returned. Shortly after 3 a.m., W. Sweeney, Harry Beveridge and Frank Stratton worked their way out of the mine and were put under the care of physicians. All three of these men later died. Lawrence Settler and John Stakes were the only ones rescued from the mine. While 19 is the official death toll, it is unclear exactly how many were rescuers. [*See all related news*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/port_royal_news_only.htm).

**1906** — [Rocky Fork Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/rocky_fork_news_only.htm), Red Lodge, Montana — To suppress a fire, the fan was reversed, which reversed the air current supplying fresh air to the fighters in room 6. This resulted in forcing the noxious gases onto the men fighting the fire in room 6. Six men lost their lives from the crew fighting the fire in room 6, while two of the rescuers, Roy Carey and Joe Bracey, lost their lives in a vain attempt to rescue the men fighting the fire in room 6.

**1908** — [Gold King Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/gold_king.htm), Gladstone, Colorado — After extinguishing the blaze, five rescuers searching for 3 missing miners fell victim to toxic mine air. In all, 6 were killed in the incident, including Victor Erickson, along with rescuers Peter McNini, Roy Coburn, Alf Johnson, A. W. Burns, and Gus Olson. John Sunston and Otto Johnson were returned to the surface barely alive.

**1966** — [Dora No. 2 Mine Asphyxiations](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/dora2_news_only.htm), Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania — After cutting into a void, resulting in an inundation of "blackdamp" in the Doverspike Bros. Dora No. 2 mine, two miners were instantly overcome. The other 5 crew members managed to escape, however, three of them returned to help their fallen co-workers and were also overcome. Those immediately affected were Sam Gaul and Ronald Moore. Those attempting rescue included John Kramer, Robert White, and Hilton Neiswonger.

**1970** — [Hazard Gold Mine Asphyxiation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/hazard_news_only.htm), Foresthill, California — Lester E. Benbow, age 41, schoolteacher, Foresthill Elementary School, was asphyxiated in the Hazard Gold Mine in the early morning of June 20, 1970, when he attempted to rescue Clifford J. Cox, who was overcome in an oxygen deficient atmosphere. He had no mining experience. Cox was later transported to the hospital, and reportedly made a complete recovery.

**1975** — [Boron Mine and Mill Asphyxiation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/boron.htm), Boron, California — About 3:30 p.m., June 25, 1975, W. E. (Willie) Dodderer, millwright, age 27, was asphyxiated when he and Eric R. Willis, millwright, entered a caisson in an attempt to rescue Brent Black, millwright, age 35, who had succumbed earlier in an oxygen deficient atmosphere.

**1981** — [Grays Knob No. 5 Inundation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/hazard_news_only.htm), Harlan County, Kentucky — The entire section crew, except for two roof bolters, who remained unaccounted for, boarded a scoop to ride to the surface via the man trip route. Soon after, however, the section foreman left the fleeing scoop to search for the two missing roof bolters. Later that afternoon, the bodies of the foreman and the two roof bolters - all victims of asphyxiation - were recovered.

**2017** — [La Farge Gravel Mine Rescue](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/vulcan_lafarge.htm), Placitas, New Mexico — Two workers became trapped while working on equipment at the La Farge gravel mine. Attempting their rescue, two others also became engulfed in the material. Two of the workers were buried up to their necks, a third to his chest and the fourth to his waist when emergency personnel arrived. The last man was freed from his confines **6 hours** after the incident occurred.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Successful Mine Rescues in July**

**1902** — [Rolling Mill Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/rolling_mill.htm), Johnstown, Pennsylvania — Four men who were brought out alive the night of the Rolling Mill mine disaster were taken to the Memorial Hospital, controlled by the Cambria Steel and Iron Company. Among these were John Rotalick, Henry Rodgers, Valentine Schalla, and William Robinson. And the next day, at 2 o’clock p.m., rescuers sent out for medical assistance to treat three others found alive. They were John Cook, Philip McCann and George Hologyak.

**1908** — [Willamstown Colliery Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/williamstown_news_only.htm), Williamstown, Pennsylvania — Ten miners were removed from the mine after an **undisclosed period** badly burned and torn by the force of the explosion. It was feared that several of them would die. One of the injured men was taken to the morgue and it was not until an identification of the bodies was made that it was found that he was living. The exact number of miners rescued is not known. Seven miners perished in the disaster.

**1914** — Banovich Silver Mine, near Tonopah, Nevada - Two men overcome by powder smoke at the bottom of a 95-foot shaft were brought out by two Bureau of Mines men from car 5. The rescuers descended the shaft, tied ropes under the armpits of the unconscious miners, and had them hoisted to the surface, where oxygen and artificial respiration were used for two hours. One miner fully recovered, but no sign of life appeared in the other miner. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1915_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1916** — On July 25, 1916, Garrett Morgan made national news for using his gas mask to rescue 32 men trapped during an explosion in an underground tunnel 250 feet beneath Lake Erie. Morgan and a team of volunteers donned the new "gas masks" and went to the rescue.

After the rescue, Morgan's company received requests from fire departments around the country who wished to purchase the new masks. The Morgan gas mask was later refined for use by U.S. Army during World War I. In 1914, Garrett Morgan was awarded a patent for a Safety Hood and Smoke Protector. Two years later, a refined model of his early gas mask won a gold medal at the International Exposition of Sanitation and Safety, and another gold medal from the International Association of Fire Chiefs. [*More information*](http://ech.case.edu/ech-cgi/article.pl?id=WTD). [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=861&dat=19910206&id=AzxSAAAAIBAJ&sjid=njYNAAAAIBAJ&pg=6729,1104523&hl=en).

**1923** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Lamberton, Pennsylvania — Robert J. Royal rescued Albert E. Roby from a mine cave-in, Lamberton, Pennsylvania, July 12, 1923. While Roby, 23, timberman’s helper, and Royal, 29, miner, were clearing a mine entry, which had been blocked by falls, a large chunk of slate fell, striking Royal on the back, temporarily paralyzing his legs. It also fell on Roby, breaking his legs and pinning him to the ground. Royal crawled 14 feet to a point in the entry which had been protected by timbering. Upon calling to Roby and learning that he was injured and unable to move, Royal crawled to Roby, using his arms and dragging his legs. He raised the chunk off Roby with considerable effort and held it up, using his left elbow and forearm as braces, while Roby moved from under it. Small pieces of slate fell, but there was no further cave-in. Roby and Royal then crawled to safety, and Royal dragged himself into a mine car and drove a horse hitched to the car 2,000 feet for help. He was disabled seven months and Roby nine months from their injuries. Mr. Royal was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=23506).

**1928** — A dam burst without warning and flooded the shaft in the [Locust Gap Colliery](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/locust_gap_1928.htm). Hearing the rush of the water, forty-nine men barely had time to reach a travelway, crawl into safety holes and make their way to the No. 1 level where they were rescued after an **undisclosed period**. Only one of the men, James Carey, of Girardville, required medical attention. He suffered from shock.

**1931** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Bulan, Kentucky — Jesse Engle rescued Charles Napier from a mine cave-in. While Napier, 31, was working beside a mine car in a mine, a rock weighing approximately 56 tons fell from the roof, knocking him down, and rested on hard-packed coal 20 inches above the floor. The fingers of one of his hands were pinned between the rock and the top of a box on the car, and his other arm was pinned under the end of the car. For 40 minutes, Engle he made thrusts against the top edge of the box with iron bars, chipping it, and inserted wedges. Napier then was able to free his hand. Engle then reached under Napier and helped him free his other arm. Engle backed out from beneath the rock, and Napier followed him. The rock settled four inches during the act, and a half-hour later the rock had crushed the car and settled within three inches of the floor. Two of Napier's fingers had to be amputated. He was not otherwise injured. Mr. Engle was awarded the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=31509).

**1933** — Twelve miners were rescued after having been trapped for **three hours** by a fall of coal in the Locust Gap mine operated by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company at Mt. Carmel, Pennsylvania. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19330701&id=Y3gzAAAAIBAJ&sjid=DeIFAAAAIBAJ&pg=4922,42360&hl=en).

**1934** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, McComas, West Virginia — Joseph James Ellis and Armado Bucchi helped to rescue Walter J. Church from a mine cave-in, McComas, West Virginia, July 28, 1934. As Church, 31, was standing between the side wall of a room in a coal mine and a mine car that was three feet from the wall, a block of slate eight feet long, six feet wide, and eight inches thick dropped from a long crack in the roof, covering the car and extending to within four inches of the wall. Church was knocked to his knees, and one arm was pinned against the top of the side of the car. Ellis, 45, miner, who was between the end of the car and the face of the coal, was struck a glancing blow by the slate and then got out of the room. He heard slate dribbling from the roof and knew that dribbling slate often preceded a fall. Calling that there had been a fall and getting an axe, Ellis crawled on his hands and knees four or five feet under the slate, which was but three feet above the floor, and chopped the side of the car four or five inches from Church's arm. Another block of slate similar in size to the first then dropped on the first block, crushing the sides of the car so that the slate was but two feet above the floor. A little later Ellis and Bucchi managed to move the side of the car, freeing Church's arm. The three then backed from beneath the slate. Church's arm was later amputated at the elbow. He recovered otherwise. Messrs. Joseph Ellis and Bucchi were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=34170).

**1937** — Four men, badly burned but still alive, along with about 20 others were rescued after an **undisclosed period** following an explosion at the Baker Coal Mine, 5 miles northeast of Sullivan, Indiana. The mine was owned by the Glendora Coal Company. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19370715&id=SrsxAAAAIBAJ&sjid=_OEFAAAAIBAJ&pg=4238,2993752).

**1938** — Five miners, buried alive for more than **48 hours** following a cave-in at the Veta silver mine at Duncan, Arizona were brought safely to the surface by rescue crews. The entombed men were Alfred Gillenwater, G. C. Robinson, D. H. Grissom, E. D. Wright, and Albert Carlson. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1243&dat=19380719&id=edMsAAAAIBAJ&sjid=zh8EAAAAIBAJ&pg=4515,6323955&hl=en).

**1938** — [Praco No. 7 Rock Fall Disaster](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/praco_1938_news_only.htm) - A roof fall occurred in this mine, trapping nine men, three of whom were rescued alive, severely shocked, with minor injuries. One rescued alive, died, probably from shock, en route to the surface, and the remaining five bodies were dead when recovered.

**1940** — [Sonman "E" Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/sonman.htm), Portage, Pennsylvania — Some of the survivors of the blast were slightly burned by the hot air that rolled through the mine. Thirteen of them came out of the 18th heading and eight escaped from the 16th heading. Edward Bem, one of these survivors, said the men crawled on their hands and knees and finally made their way to the 'dip' where they were rescued after an **undisclosed period**.

**1963** — On July 12, 1963, in a miracle survival that confounded experts, three teenage boys were found alive after spending **2 days** in an abandoned, gas-ridden mine. The youngsters were found nearly a half-mile from the mouth of No. 2 shaft of Castle Shannon Coal Company which had not been used for more than 25 years. Their rescuers were U. S. Bureau of Mines Inspectors Everett Turner, James Hutchens and Jennings Breedon. The boys, Danny O'Kain, Billy Burke and Bobby Abbott were taken to St. Clair Hospital where they were treated for exposure and dehydration. [*See vintage video*](http://www.britishpathe.com/video/boys-rescued-from-mine/query/Boys%2Brescued%2Bfrom%2Bmine). [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1665&dat=19630713&id=xw0eAAAAIBAJ&sjid=Qk4EAAAAIBAJ&pg=6462,3755342).

**1966** — [Siltix Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/siltix.htm), Mount Hope, West Virginia — Eleven men in the 6 left section heard the explosion, but they were unaware of what actually happened, and they erected a barricade in the return entries about 250 feet from the entrance to the 6 left section when they encountered smoke and fumes in the return entries. The men remained behind the barricade until they were rescued about **2 hours** later. After leaving the barricade, seven of these men assisted in recovery operations in the 2 left mains section; two of these seven employees and three additional men were overcome by smoke and fumes and were removed from the mine.

**2000** — [Willow Creek Mine Explosions & Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/willowcreek.htm), Helper, Utah — More than **10 hours** following the explosions in the Willow Creek Mine, four injured miners were laboriously brought to the surface by mine rescue teams. The rescued men included William Burton, Tyson Hales, Cory Nielsen and Shane Stansfield. Two other miners were found dead by rescue personnel.

**2002** — Following an inundation of water from an adjacent abandoned mine, nine miners were rescued after being trapped more than **3 days** in the [Quecreek Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/quecreek.htm) in Friedens, Pennsylvania. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/quecreek.htm).

**2016** — [Abandoned Iron Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/2016_abandoned_WI_iron_mine.pdf), Iron Ridge, Wisconsin — Three teenage boys got lost in a labyrinthine abandoned iron mine in southeastern Wisconsin for hours, spending the night huddled together against the cold before rescuers found them alive and safe. The three were Tate Rose and Zachary Heron, both 16, and 15-year-old Samuel Lein.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rescuer Deaths in July**

**1902** — [Rolling Mill Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/rolling_mill.htm), Johnstown, Pennsylvania — Mine foreman, Harry Rodgers; assistant mine foreman, William Blanchard; and fire bosses, John Whitney and John Thomas were overcome by the afterdamp while attempting to rescue other miners.

**1902** — [Daly West and Ontario Silver Mines Explosives Ignition](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/daly_west_news_only.htm), Park City, Utah — 34 miners were killed following a magazine explosion in the Daly West and Ontario Silver Mines in Park City, Utah. The magazine, located in the Daly West mine, exploded after miner, John Burgy, entered carrying a lit candle. Three of the deceased were rescuers: John McLaughlin; James Smith; and Jack Ballon, all of whom died of asphyxiation while rendering aid and searching for survivors. McLaughlin died after making his second trip into the mine. Several of the dead were in the adjacent Ontario mine. With the exception of Mr. Burgy, all the miners died from asphyxiation.

**1920** — [Black Diamond No. 2](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/pacific_coast.htm), Mine Rescue Training Fatalities, Black Diamond, Washington — On July 10, 1920, Henry DeWinter, Hugh Hughes, and James Hudson lost their lives while wearing oxygen breathing apparatus in an abandoned slope of the Black Diamond No. 2 mine of the Pacific Coast Coal Company, Black Diamond, Washington.

**1944** — [Powhatan Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/powhattan_news_only.htm), Belmont, Ohio — Immediately upon receiving the news of the fire, George Emery, a 45-year-old foreman and father of four children, went into the pit to help the trapped men. Hours later he had not returned.

**1950** — [Lark Section - U. S. and Lark Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/lark.htm), Lark, Utah — The fire was first detected by a pumpman who encountered smoke while being hoisted in the Lark Shaft from the 2500 level to the 1200 level. He returned by cage to the 2500 level to notify the hoistman by telephone and died some time later after closing the water doors when a power outage occurred. The other four men died while attempting to rescue him.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Successful Mine Rescues in August**

**1894** — [Gilberton Colliery Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/gilberton_1894_news_only.htm), Ashland, Pennsylvania — Eleven miners, plus another number whose names could not be learned, were brought to the surface following a methane explosion in the Gilberton Colliery at Ashland. A roof fall occurred where pillar robbing was being performed which pushed the gas more than 1,000 yards to the gangway where it was ignited by naked lamps. One miner was killed outright and another died while being carried to his home.

**1886** — [Fair Lawn Colliery Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/fairlawn_news_only.htm), Scranton, Pennsylvania — Following the explosion, a crew of men making repairs were sent to the east gangway where groans had been heard. There they found 3 men still alive. After an **undisclosed period**, the first man to be brought to the surface was John Nofin. He was badly burned about the face and arms. John Kerrigan was alive when found and talked the strongest of all but he died before being brought to the surface. The last was John Connor. He had two large scalp wounds and a bad cut on the knee and another on the arm. His face and hands were badly bruised.

**1907** — Unnamed Anthracite Coal Mine Cave-in, Inkerman, Pennsylvania — Thomas Huntley, 40; John Merrick, 50; George R. Jopling, 55; and Patrick F. Walsh, 29 helped to rescue John R. Eustice, 52, timberman, from a mine cave-in, Inkerman, Pennsylvania, August 22, 1907. Eustice and four others had been caught by the caving of the roof. While the roof was working, the walls squeezing, and small stuff falling at intervals, Huntley, with the assistance of the others, dug Eustice from under the coal and debris where he lay injured and carried him to safety. Eustice recovered. All four rescuers were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=3921).

**1908** — A fall of top rock occurred following an explosion in the [Knickerbocker Colliery](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/knickerbocker.htm) near Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. Two miners died, but John Kuza, William Suso and Charles Cowley were rescued. The three men were seriously injured.

**1911** — Rescuers worked for **three days** to free Joseph Clary, 32, from the [White Oak Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/white_oak.htm) near Villa Heights, Missouri, where a cave-in had occurred on July 30. Once a drill hole was large enough, a fried chicken dinner, water and whiskey were lowered to Clary along with a telephone from which he conversed with his family and rescuers.

**1912** — [Abernant Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/abernant_news_only.htm), Abernant, Alabama — The day after the explosion, an exploring party found a man in the 14th right aircourse, still alive. He was brought to the surface, but in such a condition that he never regained consciousness. Another miner, after repeated efforts to penetrate the afterdamp, took refuge at the face of 14th right aircourse and came out unassisted after about 3 hours.

**1915** — [Orenda Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/orenda_news_only.htm), Boswell, Pennsylvania — After an **undisclosed period**, a foreman and others rescued 10 miners who were overcome by afterdamp following a local explosion in the Orenda Mine near Boswell, PA. Two of the rescued men were among the 19 that perished in the disaster.

**1917** — Thanks to the heroism of Frank Mattson, two miners who were overcome by smoke in the [Lincoln mine fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/lincoln.htm) at Virginia, Minnesota were rescued after an **undisclosed period**. Mattson was lowered into the mine without a mask where he found Oscar Pakkala and Joe Reinshe. Mattson found the victims near the flames and carried both of them to the surface. All three were revived by a pulmotor.

**1917** — [West Kentucky No. 7 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/west_kentucky7.htm), Clay, Kentucky — Forty six had been brought to the surface alive from the West Kentucky Coal Company's No. 7 mine explosion after **3½ hours**. Of the rescued, 24 were uninjured. The remainder were suffering from burns, none of which were said to be serious.

**1921** — Seven miners were rescued after an **undisclosed period** following an explosion in the [Harco Coal Company mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/harco.htm) near Harrisburg, Illinois. The men were suffering from the affects of blackdamp and taken to local hospitals.

**1923** — [Kemmerer Coal Company, Frontier No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/frontier1.htm) — At 5 o'clock rescuers found a man lying in the main slope who was nearing death from inhalation of smoke and gas fumes. He was revived by a pulmotor and brought to the surface, where he was taken to a hospital. He was expected to recover. A short time later, two men who had hidden in a remote corner of a room off the main slope were taken to the surface, apparently not suffering greatly from their entombment. Another man, found further in along the main slope, showed signs of life when rescuers reached him, but when doctors attempted to revive him, it was found that he had died.

**1924** — Unnamed Anthracite Coal Mine Cave-in, Sugar Notch, Pennsylvania — Joseph P. Riley, 34, mine trackman, rescued Chester Stavinski, 12, from a mine cave-in, Sugar Notch, Pennsylvania, August 4, 1924. While Chester and several other boys were gathering berries on a hillside, Chester fell into a narrow hole at the top of an old chamber of a mine. The chamber had been abandoned for five years, and the top had caved in. Nothing was known of its depth or condition. Riley, having a rope tied around him, was lowered 200 feet to Chester, who lay at the bottom of the chamber. He held Chester as men at the surface pulled them to the surface. Chester died in a few hours as a result of injuries received when he fell. Mr. Riley was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=24548).

**1926** — Five miners were trapped for **six days and seven nights** by a cave-in at the Hudson Zinc and Spar Mine near Salem, Kentucky. Rescuers worked through much difficulty to free the men who were mostly affected by the cold and their thirst. The 5 rescued miners included Randolph Cobb, Roy James, George Catillo, U. B. Wilson, and Harry Watson. Underground prayer meetings had caused conversion of last man, read the New York Times headline on August 12, 1926. All were ready to die. "If we are dead when you find us, we are saved," was written on their cloth caps. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=950&dat=19260813&id=gvpPAAAAIBAJ&sjid=sVQDAAAAIBAJ&pg=6210,6361330&hl=en).

**1926** — [Clymer No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/clymer_news_only.htm), Clymer, Pennsylvania — Four miners were rescued by the first group of rescuers that entered the shaft after an **undisclosed period**. They were working at the foot of the shaft and were dragged to safety before the gases ended their lives. All were said to be suffering broken bones and internal injuries. Several minutes later four other men were found and brought out. They were still warm and first aid was given. After two hours' work and all means known to medical science had been exhausted, they were pronounced dead.

**1927** — [West Kentucky No. 7 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/clay_news_only.htm), Clay, Kentucky — Sixteen of the miners who were preparing to come to the surface at the time of the explosion were rescued after an **undisclosed period**. They were 10 white men and six negroes. None of them was seriously injured. The explosion wrecked the cages used to lift the miners and coal from the pit and those saved had to be carried through a mine hole used to circulate air.

**1934** — [Derby No. 3 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/derby_news_only.htm), Big Stone Gap, Virginia — After an **undisclosed period** following the 7 a.m. explosion, two men, Lawrence Fleener and Walter Bayless, were brought out alive and were taken to the Stonega hospital for treatment. Artificial respiration was resorted to in vain efforts to save some of the others.

**1934** — William Jones, 35, from Minersville, Pennsylvania was rescued from a rock slide in a Bootleg anthracite mine at Coal Castle, Pennsylvania, where he was trapped for more than 24 hours.[*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1144&dat=19340808&id=oCQbAAAAIBAJ&sjid=gEsEAAAAIBAJ&pg=5041,1113159&hl=en).

**1936** — Following a **72 hour** entrapment in the burning [Esry Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mobley.htm) near Moberly, Missouri, two of four men were rescued.  The deceased were Ed Stoner, one of the owners, and George Dameron.  The rescued men were Demmer Sexton and Jack McMann.

**1963** — David Fellin and Henry Throne were trapped for **14 days** in the [Sheppton Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/sheppton.htm) in the Pennsylvania anthracite coal region following a cave-in.  In the early hours of Tuesday, Aug. 27, 1963, first Throne, then Fellin were pulled from a depth of 330 feet to the surface wearing parachute harnesses and football helmets.  A third miner in the mine at the time, Lou Bova, was never recovered.  [*See more*](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/MineRescue/conversations/messages/5423).  [*Vintage Video*](http://www.britishpathe.com/video/rescue).

**1963** — [Cane Creek Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/cane_creek.htm) - Seven men erected a barricade in 3U drift.  Two of these men left the barricade and traveled to the shaft station where they were met by a rescue crew and brought to the surface **19 hours** after the explosion.  The other five men remained behind the barricade and were rescued **50 hours** after the explosion.

**1965** — Unnamed Mine Cave-in, Chillicothe, Ohio — Ernest L. Bradley, 36, heavy equipment operator, sustained fatal injuries helping to rescue Jack W. Berryman, 45, heavy equipment operator, from a cave-in, Chillicothe, Ohio, August 6, 1965. Bradley immediately entered the ditch and, kneeling in front of Berryman, began digging the earth away with his hands. As Bradley continued digging, another man entered the ditch. A man outside the ditch shouted a warning. A section of earth weighing about six tons caved in from the side nearest Bradley. The other man jumped back, and only one of his legs was trapped. Bradley managed to place his arms about his head before the falling earth knocked him face down and covered him completely. Workmen extricated Bradley and Berryman, both of whom had suffered fractures. Berryman recovered, but Bradley, who also had suffered internal injuries, died. Mr. Bradley was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery (posthumously). [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=49002).

**1968** — Buried up to his waist in debris, Ervin Roark was rescued following a roof fall accident in the Amherst Coal Company’s No. 1 mine at Lundale, West Virginia. Three other miners, Charlie Lowe, Enoc Tudor, and Emmett Copley, were recovered dead after 8 hours. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=336&dat=19680815&id=BMlOAAAAIBAJ&sjid=YkkDAAAAIBAJ&pg=7107,3179540&hl=en).

**1991** — 70 miners were rescued after more than **seven hours** following a roof fall at the Consolidation Coal McElroy Mine near Moundsville, West Virginia.  The fall occurred when a mine car struck a roof support causing the collapse.  Rescuers lowed food and extra mine lamps to the trapped miners during their ordeal.  [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1129&dat=19910814&id=Q9c0AAAAIBAJ&sjid=aW4DAAAAIBAJ&pg=2272,3379786).

**2002** — Walter L. Houser Strip Asphyxiation, Kittanning, Pennsylvania — At 7:15 a.m., Timothy E. Barrett, a 40-year-old auger machine operator became overcome from low oxygen after crawling in a 30-inch diameter auger hole at the Walter L Houser Strip mine. Barrett crawled into the auger hole but did not return, nor did he respond when Darlene Orr, helper, called to him. Orr crawled into the hole and found Barrett unconscious about 120 feet into the hole, but was unable to drag him out. Joseph O'Donnell, MSHA inspector, donned a self contained breathing device, tied two ropes around himself and entered the hole. Barrett was found unconscious due to the oxygen deficiency. O'Donnell tried to drag Barrett, but could not. He then tied a rope to Barrett and signaled to the rescue personnel to begin pulling. Barrett was removed from the hole at approximately 9:15 a.m. was given emergency medical treatment. Barrett was transported to Armstrong County Memorial Hospital where he unfortunately was pronounced dead at 9:44 a.m.  [*Source document*](https://arlweb.msha.gov/FATALS/2002/FTL02c21.HTM).

**2016** — [Keystone No. 1 Abandoned Mine Rescue](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/2016_Keystone_Mine_Rescue.pdf), Keystone, West Virginia — Three men were found and rescued in the abandoned Keystone No. 1 mine following a search lasting more than **12 hours**. The three men found, Justin Bolen, Brandon Collins and Steve Cordle, along with Dustin Bolen and Jimmie were arrested following an investigation into the copper thefts at the mine. A fourth man lost in the mine, Clay Epperly, was never found.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rescuer Deaths in August**

**1913** — [East Brookside Mine Explosions](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/east_brookside_news_only.htm), Tower City, Pennsylvania — Five miners met their death when they entered the East Brookside Anthracite Mine following an explosion there.  While attempting to rescue victims of the first blast, a second methane explosion occurred, sealing their fate.  The first explosion, believed to be caused by dynamite, killed 15 miners.  One of the rescuers managed to escape, but died a few hours later.

**1919** — [Confined Space Fatality](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/sinclair.htm), Trinidad, Colorado — On August 25, 1919, James S. Cunningham, foreman miner of Bureau of Mines rescue car No. 2, died while wearing a Salvus ½-hour apparatus in a gasoline storage tank of the Sinclair Oil & Refining Company, Trinidad, Colorado.

**1936** — [Kathleen Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/kathleen_1936_news_only.htm), Dowell, Illinois — During the time the State Mine rescue team was erecting seals outby the fire, several motor trips of material were sent into the 7th north haulage road which is on the return for this section.  With these trips, there were between 15 and 20 men, who had been sent to assist with the sealing.  All of these men were more or less affected with carbon monoxide; nine of them lost their lives.

**1936** — [Mountain City Mine Asphyxiation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mountain_city.htm), Mountain City, Nevada — Two men persuaded a third to lower them to an area of dangerous atmospheric conditions.  The third man realized the seriousness of the situation but gave little or no thought to the atmospheric conditions.  He proceeded down the manway until he was overcome and fell to the bottom.  A fourth man, in a solitary attempt to rescue the third, was overcome and also fell to within 5 feet of the bottom.  When the shift boss and four others arrived, they attempted to recover the bodies.  Two men were lowered in the bucket, and both were overcome.

**1943** — [General Chemical Defense Corporation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/point_pleasant.htm), Point Pleasant, West Virginia — Three employees of the disposal plant were killed by the inhalation of toxic fumes believed to be hydrogen sulfide or an oxygen deficiency.  Charles R. Miller, Water Treating Operator, was the initial victim.  Delmar W. Oldaker and Gerard Colwell were overcome during rescue attempts.

**1943** — [Sayreton No. 2 Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/sayreton.htm), Sayreton, Jefferson County, Alabama — About 12:40 a.m., August 29th, or 2½ hours after the first explosion, a second explosion occurred in the same area, at which time there were 18 members of a rescue party in the affected section.  Two men of the rescue party were killed and 16 were injured.  Eight of the sixteen injured died after being removed to the hospital.  Total number of deaths from the second explosion was 10.

**1965** — Unnamed Mine Cave-in, Chillicothe, Ohio — Ernest L. Bradley, 36, heavy equipment operator, sustained fatal injuries helping to rescue Jack W. Berryman, 45, heavy equipment operator, from a cave-in, Chillicothe, Ohio, August 6, 1965. Bradley immediately entered the ditch and, kneeling in front of Berryman, began digging the earth away with his hands. As Bradley continued digging, another man entered the ditch. A man outside the ditch shouted a warning. A section of earth weighing about six tons caved in from the side nearest Bradley. The other man jumped back, and only one of his legs was trapped. Bradley managed to place his arms about his head before the falling earth knocked him face down and covered him completely. Workmen extricated Bradley and Berryman, both of whom had suffered fractures. Berryman recovered, but Bradley, who also had suffered internal injuries, died. Mr. Bradley was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery (posthumously). [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=49002).

**1985** — [R & R Mine No. 3 Carbon Monoxide Suffocation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/r_and_r.htm), Woodbine, Kentucky — Loading and hauling coal after a shot throughout the afternoon, a miner was overcome by CO when his scoop became stuck in the face area.  Two others attempting to save the fallen miner were also overcome.

**2007** — [Crandall Canyon Mine Collapse](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/crandallcanyon.htm), Huntington, Utah — On August 16, 2007, three rescue workers were killed and six others were injured when a seismic jolt caused a mine accident during an effort to reach six men who have been trapped at the Crandall Canyon Mine since August 6.  The six men initially killed were Kerry Allred, Luis Hernandez, Carlos Payan, Don Erikson, Manuel Sanchez, and Brandon Phillips.  The three killed during the attempted rescue were Federal Mine Inspector, Gary Jensen, Brandon Kimber and Dale Black.

**Successful Mine Rescues in September**

**1897** — [Williamson County Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/williamson.htm), Johnston City, Illinois — Fifteen wounded miners, two of whom later died, were rescued from the smoke and flames after an **undisclosed period**.

**1902** — [Big Four Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/algoma_news_only.htm), Algoma, West Virginia — H. F. Frankenfeld, a mine boss, and Geo. Gaspie, a Hungarian miner, succeeded in crawling over fallen coal and slate after the explosion to the lights of the rescuing party and were taken out alive although burned and nearly suffocated by the gas and smoke inhaled.

**1902** — [Stafford Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/stafford_news_only.htm), Stafford, West Virginia — Six badly wounded miners were rescued after an **undisclosed period** and placed under the care of Mine Superintendent Stewart. Several others were also hurt in the incident. The most serious cases were sent to the hospital.

**1904** — Unnamed Anthracite Coal Mine Cave-in, Kingston, Pennsylvania — William Watkins, 24, coal miner, rescued Brinley R. Davis, 22, mine car tender; Rees J. Williams, 19, driver, and Joseph Winchent, 45, coal miner, in a mine, Kingston, Pennsylvania, September 3, 1904. Watkins successively took the men from the place of an explosion, where there was imminent danger of the roof falling, to a position of safety. Mr. Watkins was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his efforts. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=257).

**1914** — Cave-in at Centennial Gold Mine, Eureka, Utah - Twelve men were imprisoned. One man was rescued by company men, who, in **seven hours**, drove a drift 15 feet in country rock without shooting. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1915_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1915** — Rahn Colliery Explosion, Coaldale, PA – On September 27, an explosion caused a rush of water and coal which cut off and entombed 11 men. Two of the men were rescued **12 hours** after the disaster, but the others were not reached until October 3, after an imprisonment of **6 days and 5 hours**. Three hundred men working 3 shifts per day drove the tunnel to reach the trapped miners. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1916_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1916** — Jacob Dixon and William Gammell became enclosed by a rush of coal in the Good Spring Colliery of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company near Tremont, Pennsylvania. After **five hours**, Dixon succeeded in getting into a blind heading where he was rescued. They were engaged in the hazardous work of "robbing pillars." No further news could be found regarding the rescue of William Gammell. His survival was unlikely. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2202&dat=19160915&id=kawlAAAAIBAJ&sjid=GfwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2886,4514193&hl=en).

**1922** — Seven miners were imprisoned for an **undisclosed period** following the [Lake Creek Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/lake_creek.htm) in Johnston City, Illinois, but were taken from the shaft by rescue teams hastily called. The seven men had taken refuge in another entry and by doing this prevented the gas from killing them.

**1926** — [Tahoma No. 29 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/tahona_news_only.htm), Tahoma, Oklahoma — After about **3 hours**, George Adams saved himself and three workmen, including Sam Cox. Cox was burned and was bleeding about the body. Adams dragged him through the debris to the surface and then returned for the two other men. At another location, Lee Carter was almost overcome by gas fumes when a rescue party carried him to safety.

**1931** — Aukstock Carter, 30, was rescued after an **undisclosed period** following a cave-in in an unnamed coal mine near Charleston, West Virginia. His rescue came after company physician, Dr. W. B. Davis, amputated his right arm. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2202&dat=19310914&id=PLMlAAAAIBAJ&sjid=EvwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=6590,4107625&hl=en).

**1943** — [Primrose Colliery Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/moffett_news_only.htm), Primrose, Pennsylvania — After an **undisclosed period** following the explosion, nine injured men were removed from the mine and taken to a hospital in nearby Pottsville. Most of them were suffering from burns, bruises and shock. Only one of these, James Connelly, was believed to be in serious condition.

**1943** — Rescuers freed six miners after an **undisclosed period** following an explosion at the Three Point Coal Company mine in southeast Kentucky. Twelve miners perished in the accident; 3 directly by the explosion and 9 others found huddled together, overcome by gases. The six rescued miners had traveled one mile further into the mine where they constructed a barricade. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=888&dat=19430918&id=VBxPAAAAIBAJ&sjid=n04DAAAAIBAJ&pg=7411,2040811).

**1957** — [Marianna No. 58 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/marianna_news_only.htm), Marianna, Pennsylvania — Six miners were rescued from the exploded and burning mine after more than **8 hours**. Shortly after noon, telephone lines were dropped to the men at the foot of the portal shaft. The miners said they all were burned, one so badly he could take liquids only through a straw. Blankets, first aid equipment and oxygen tanks were then lowered by rope. The first of the trapped miners was brought to the surface in a makeshift oil drum elevator at 2:10 p.m. At half-hour intervals, five other survivors were lifted to safety in the drums.

**1968** — [Somerset Mine Roof Fall](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/somerset.htm), Somerset, Colorado — John W. Southerland was rescued following a roof fall in the United States Steel Corporation’s Somerset Mine. Southerland said he was trapped among the rocks for about **45 minutes** before two fellow workers, Chuck Woodburn and Jim Pavisik, dug him out. Four others were killed in the accident.

**1970** — Richard Owens was rescued **10 hours** after being trapped in mud and rock up to his neck in the Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation’s Tungsten Mine. The mine is located in Vance County in north-central North Carolina, near the Virginia border. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1665&dat=19700912&id=wRsaAAAAIBAJ&sjid=iCQEAAAAIBAJ&pg=3726,3533734).

**1989** — Joshua Dennis, a 10-year-old gone missing from a Boy Scout exploring trip, was rescued after nearly **one week** from the abandoned Hidden Treasure Mine near Stockton, Utah. The boy was found by a Utah Power and Light Company mine rescue team, ranked among the best teams in the country. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1144&dat=19890929&id=QqkcAAAAIBAJ&sjid=imMEAAAAIBAJ&pg=5612,8207019).

**2015** — [Abandoned Mine Rescue](http://www.caverescue.net/), Adelanto, California — After a man became trapped in an abandoned mine near Adelanto, California, the call was for a vertical shaft mine rescue. The subject was 40 feet down a shaft with a level adit that went on for 20 feet. He had hand over handed down a poly rope to see inside the mine. When his friends tied the rope to a quad and tried to pull him out, the rope broke. He fell a distance back down the shaft, landing on a pile of discarded mattresses at the bottom of the mine. Since vehicles could not access the shaft, equipment was hiked in and pickets were set up for anchors. An EMT from the San Bernardino Sheriff’s Cave & Technical Rescue Team was lowered to bring the man to the surface. The subject was unhurt, and after a nearly **8 hour** entrapment, he was raised in a harness and declined further treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rescuer Deaths in September**

**1869** — [Steuben Shaft Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/avondale.htm), Plymouth, Pennsylvania — 108 miners were asphyxiated, 2 rescuers killed. Thomas W. Williams of Plymouth and David Jones of Grand Tunnel, entered what subsequently proved to them the pit of death.

**1879** — [Grizzly Mine Asphyxiations](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/grizzly_news_only.htm), Alta, Utah — Six men were asphyxiated in the Grizzly mine from carbon monoxide. Three of them were killed in an effort to rescue others. The cause of the accident is ascribed to smoke from the engine furnace on the tunnel level, the exit of which had become choked, and thereby smoke was driven back through the mine.

**1913** — [Mine Rescue Training Fatality](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/union_pacific_training.htm), Rock Springs, Wyoming — On September 30, 1913, Edward Evans, an employee of the Bureau of Mines, lost his life during mine rescue maneuvers at a mine of the Union Pacific Coal Company, Rock Springs, Wyoming.

**1915** — [Alta-Quincy Tunnel Exploration](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/albion.htm), Salt Lake City, Utah — On September 17, 1915, Thomas Hendrickson, a foreman of the International Exploration Company, lost his life while wearing a Dräger 2-hour oxygen breathing apparatus during an exploration in the Alta-Quincy tunnel, near Salt Lake City, Utah, leased by the Albion Mining Company.

**1936** — [Metz Coal Mine CO Asphyxiation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/metz_news_only.htm), Fulton, Missouri — Columbia firemen were called to remove the four bodies and helped save a fifth worker who was in serious condition. Mine owner Louis Metz and his father-in-law were overcome by gas as they went into the mine to pump water. The miner’s three younger brothers came to help and they too fell victim to the deadly gas. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19360901&id=tLMhAAAAIBAJ&sjid=iZsFAAAAIBAJ&pg=4235,7951).

**1966** — William Adams, 33, of Barnesville, Ohio, was outside when a fire broke out deep inside the [Morgan Mine near St. Clairsville, Ohio](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/morgan_news_only.htm). He ran into the mine and sounded the alarm. Counting only 12 men running out, he then went inside again in search of Keith Spicer, 22, of Dillonvale, Ohio, a miner for only two months, and Tony Territti, 43, of Wheeling. None of the three men surfaced from the mine.

**1979** — In the process of testing a newly installed rescue capsule in the 335 foot shaft of Consolidation Coal Company’s Mathies Mine in Peters Township, Washington County, PA, company safety inspector, John Marn, plunged 180 feet to his death after the capsule’s coupling device broke. The Washington County Coroner, Farrell Jackson, ruled that Edward Nogal, federal mine inspector, was partially responsible for Marn’s death.[*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1144&dat=19790920&id=CZgqAAAAIBAJ&sjid=JFwEAAAAIBAJ&pg=2515,2801720&hl=en)*.*

**1981** — [Warrier Gold Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/warrier.htm), Burgdorf, Idaho — After the explosion, Rocke Wilson and Ardy Johnson descended to search for two workman. Shortly thereafter, both men were suddenly overcome by carbon monoxide. Two hours later, the general partner and mine manager resumed the search. During this effort, Johnson was found 75 feet from the portal and Wilson was found 100 feet from the portal. Subsequent CPR attempts revived Wilson, but Johnson never regained consciousness.

**2001** — [JWR No. 5 Mine Explosions](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/JimWalter.htm), Brookwood, Alabama — After communicating with the section foreman about the events of the initial blast in 4 Section, 3 other miners entered the 4 Section to rescue the remaining injured miner. Additional miners from other sections were notified and traveled toward 4 Section to lend assistance. Five of these miners entered the Section and another 4 reached the mouth of the 4 Section. The second explosion resulted in 12 fatalities and widespread destruction.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Successful Mine Rescues in October**

**1885** — [Plymouth No. 2 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/plymouth.htm), Plymouth, Pennsylvania — As soon as possible after the explosion, a rescuing party was organized and the injured men were brought out of the mine, all terribly burned but, with one exception, still living. The first man brought out by the relief party was Thomas Howard. He was cut in the back and terribly burned about the head and face. The others were brought up in the following order: Joseph Thomas; David Grimes; John Woods; Frank Spinnett; Edward T. Jones; John Lavinsky; Thomas Collins; Anthony Spinneta; John Zalinsky; Thomas McDermott; Frank Sanfraux; John Kerst; Sandy Lova; John Cobley. All these were found lying near the foot of the shaft in the main gangway. None of them was able to stand up, and one or two were unconscious.

**1895** — [Dorrance Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/dorrance_news_only.htm), Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania — Five men, all badly burned, were brought to the surface at 8:00 p.m. following an explosion which occurred sometime in the late afternoon in the Dorrance mine. Among the men rescued were: Robert Blanchard, William Miller, George Lafly, Joseph Murphy, and Michael Moss who later died. When Blanchard was found he was being slowly roasted to death. His partner, Miller, whose arms were broken, could render him no assistance. These two men were not expected to live.

**1897** — October 30, 1897 - Joseph Yomaski, one of the men entombed in the Von Storch Mine of the Delaware and Hudson Company, was rescued at 10 o'clock Saturday night. The bodies of the other men were afterwards found and brought to the surface. In an interview, the Pole explained that when his companions began to suffer their death agonies, he at once urged them to follow him, but they refused. He escaped to an old airway where he knew of a hand fan, over which he placed a box, and in that inserted his head. He then kept the fan going for **ten hours** and kept himself alive until rescued. [*See more*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/von_storch.htm).

**1901** — [Buttonwood Colliery Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/buttonwood_1901.htm), Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania — Directly after the explosion occurred a number of brave rescuers, at the risk of their lives, entered the mine and brought out the bodies of the dead and nine injured miners. The injured men were taken to the hospital as fast as they were brought to the surface. With the exception of Inspector Daniel Davis, it was thought that all would recover.

**1906** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Stockdale, Pennsylvania — Arthur Smith and Albert W. Simpson helped to rescue George Spencer from a mine cave-in, Stockdale, Pennsylvania, October 9, 1906. Spencer, 54, was caught by a fall of slate. There was room for only one person to work at his release. Smith, 28, driver, was first to go, and, while he was digging away the debris, another fall occurred but missed them by a narrow margin. Fatigue compelled Smith to stop, and Simpson took up the work and after 15 minutes’ labor, Spencer was extricated. Another fall seemed to be impending and did occur an hour later. Arthur Smith and Albert Simpson were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=1268).

**1911** — The fourteen miners entombed in the [Shakespeare Placer gold mine cave-in](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/Shakespeare_Placer_news_only.htm) at Dome Creek, Alaska were freed after 84 hours. The Keystone drill hole was enlarged by thawing until it was large enough to permit the body of a man to pass. Then the imprisoned miners were pulled up one after another 174 feet to the surface. Those rescued included Edward Carlson, John Smith, Oscar Burg, Peter Peterson, Frank Albani, Robert Forasino, George Sakoff, Taze Gabeso, Antone Mareno, Kabof Sakkoboff, Nik Moreff, Zip Moreff, Michael Morzof, and George

Zakaloff. This accident occurred on September 28, 1911.

**1913** — Seven Mexican miners, trapped for **6 days** in the Vogel and Lawrence Lignite mine at Rockdale, Texas were found unconscious, and barely alive. The men were imprisoned by a cave-in following a cloud burst which flooded the mine. Laying near the men was their mule, still alive. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2249&dat=19131022&id=_xonAAAAIBAJ&sjid=cgMGAAAAIBAJ&pg=2295,4253575&hl=en).

**1913** — Trapped in an abandoned chamber of the Continental Mine operated by the Lehigh Valley Coal Company in Centralia, Pennsylvania, Thomas Toshesky was finally freed by rescuers after **8 days**. He was in good condition and spirits, refusing a stretcher and making it out of the mine under his own power. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1915&dat=19131004&id=qfIgAAAAIBAJ&sjid=gnQFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2923,3564528&hl=en).

**1914** — [Royalton North No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/royalton_news_only.htm) - An accumulation of gas was ignited by open light. Doors to an old room were left open and gas accumulated. One man was rescued from the affected area **10 hours** after the explosion had occurred.

**1914** — [Explosion in Mulga Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mulga2_news_only.htm), Mulga, Alabama - Sixteen men were killed and 12 were rescued by parties led by company officials. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1915_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1914** — Explosion at Patterson No. 2 Mine, Elizabeth, Pennsylvania - Following the explosion, the superintendent and the pump man were overcome by afterdamp. A rescue party in the charge of the mine foreman carried the unconscious men to fresh air. The superintendent soon recovered, but the pump man could not be revived. Breathing apparatus was not used. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1915_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1915** — Continental Colliery Cave-in, Centralia, PA – On October 4, John Tomaschefski was rescued after **187 hours**, imprisoned by a cave-in at the colliery which occurred on September 26. A 2-inch diamond drill hole was drilled 50 feet to provide food, water and dry clothing. It took 85 hours to drill this hole. Following this, the rescuers drove, by pick mining, a 4-foot by 4-foot passageway to reach and rescue the trapped miner. It required 4 days to accomplish this. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1916_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1931** — Two miners who never gave up hope after 4 comrades were killed in an explosion in the [Mocanaqua Mine of the West End Coal Company](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mocanaqua_news_only.htm) were rescued after **133 hours** of entrapment. The survivors were John Thomashunis, age 40, and John Metz, age 22.

**1935** — Mine workers who worked all night, rescued one of two men entombed in a "bootleg" coal mine, 2 miles south of Mt. Carmel, Pennsylvania. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1144&dat=19351025&id=LlgdAAAAIBAJ&sjid=Uo4EAAAAIBAJ&pg=2049,5203021&hl=en).

**1935** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Steubenville, Ohio — John Henry Wiggins helped to rescue Richard S. Riser from a mine cave-in, Steubenville, Ohio, October 14, 1935. While Riser, 51, was working in an entry five feet high in a mine, a rock 30 feet long, 10 feet wide, and two to three feet thick fell from the top, knocking him down close to a rail of a track and pinning his right arm and left foot. His left knee was pressed against his chest, causing him to breathe with great difficulty. Wiggins, 48, mine loader, ran to the rock and at a point 12 feet from Riser lay prone and crawled under it toward Riser through an opening 14 inches high. The rock rested mainly on refuse coal, and as Wiggins crawled, he pushed rock fragments from in front of him and stacked them to aid in preventing the rock from sinking lower and crushing him. Reaching Riser, he tugged at his left foot and forced off Riser's shoe but was unable to free his foot. Riser urged him to break his leg, if necessary. Wiggins crawled back to the opening, got a jack handle, again crawled to Riser, and tried to raise the rock by means of the handle but failed. He then took hold of Riser's ankle with both hands and pulled his foot free, crawled backward for four feet, and pulled Riser's leg to a straight position. He removed rock fragments from around Riser's right leg and then tried to pull Riser's arm from its wedged position. Failing to do so, he crawled back to the opening and clear of the rock. He had been under the rock for 20 minutes Later the rock was raised by means of jacks, and Riser was dragged from beneath it. His arm was paralyzed. Two other men who were caught under the fall were killed. John Wiggins was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=35150).

**1938** — Falling slate blocked the exit from a room where Dolar Johnson, 54, was preparing to blast in the Lilly Meade Mine in Owensboro, Kentucky. When his lamp became extinguished, he realized he was lost and he decided to sit and wait for rescue. He was safely brought to the surface **4 days** later. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1917&dat=19381018&id=KfFGAAAAIBAJ&sjid=XekMAAAAIBAJ&pg=6513,5715353&hl=en).

**1941** — [Daniel Boone Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/daniel_boone_news_only.htm), Daniel Boone, Kentucky — 34 rescued miners were brought to the surface by way of an air shaft within **two hours** after the explosion. Four other survivors were able to leave through the main entrance before it was filled by gas.

**1954** — Nearly freed from fallen timber and rock in an Anthracite mine in Branchdale, Pennsylvania, Carl Herman became trapped again when a second cave-in occurred. 35 friends worked for an **undisclosed period** to free Herman who managed to get out with only a broken leg. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1842&dat=19541027&id=eSYsAAAAIBAJ&sjid=wsgEAAAAIBAJ&pg=688,2531752&hl=en).

**1958** — [Bishop No. 34 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/bishop.htm) - An explosion occurred in this mine and resulted in the death of 22 miners. Thirty-seven others erected barricades and remained behind them until they were rescued.

**1958** — [Burton Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/burton_news_only.htm), Craigsville, West Virginia — Four men who miraculously escaped death after being trapped underground were hospitalized. The first of four men rescued reached the surface on his own feet, leaning on the shoulders of his rescuers, some **four hours** after the blast. He was Artie Humphreys of Craigsville. Three others, two of them horribly burned, were brought out on stretchers.

**1965** — [Mars No. 2 Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mars.htm), Wilsonburg, West Virginia — Workers inched their way deep inside the fire-ravaged Mars No. 2 mine tunnels for nearly **20 hours** before coming upon Charles Lantz, 26, of Buckhannon. He was brought out alive but died of his injuries en route to a hospital.

**1965** — Wildcat Cave Entrapment, Hinckley, Ohio – A fifteen-year-old boy was rescued after being trapped for 24 hours. He was wedged in a crevice 10 inches wide and three feet high and was found tilted downward at a 45° angle. Consultation and assistance was provided by employees of the Ohio Division of Mines.[*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1817&dat=19651006&id=8w4fAAAAIBAJ&sjid=D5sEAAAAIBAJ&pg=7343,799540&hl=en)*.*

**1966** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Clarksburg, West Virginia — On October 25, 1966, when a cave-in occurred in a coal mine, G. Edward Longwell took refuge under the steel boom of a digging machine in a three-foot space between the machine and a shuttle car. A second cave-in piled coal and shale as much as 50 feet deep over a wide area. Longwell was surrounded by debris but was not injured. In about 24 hours digging machines had removed the debris to the shuttle car within 22 feet of Longwell. With the debris creaking overhead, and after 5 more hours, Longwell was removed. For their bravery in the rescue of Longwell, Baxter Ellison, John Ashcraft, and Gayle Davis were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award.[*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=49264)*.*

**1977** — [Segco No. 1 Mine Roof Fall](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/segco.htm), Parrish, Alabama — Kenneth W. Ely rescued Ollis A. Bryant from a cave-in, Parrish, Alabama, October 11, 1977. When a cave-in occurred in a coal mine, Bryant, 46, was pinned beneath a huge slab of shale and sandstone that was propped up slightly at one side by reason of its resting on a low machine. Ely, 29, federal coal mine inspector, wriggled under the slab and, by moving debris and digging into the clay floor, created a crawl space to the machine, alongside which Bryant was trapped. After freeing Bryant from the debris around him, Ely drew him into the crawl space. Workers pulled Ely by the feet as he in turn pulled on Bryant. In that manner both men were drawn from beneath the slab. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=56290).

**1980** — Two men, David Aubuchon and Guy Hayton, and the car they were driving were rescued after spending **4 days** at the bottom of a vertical shaft of the University of Arizona experimental mine near Tucson. They had crashed their car through a barbed-wire fence protecting the shaft entrance. Following their rescue, the men were questioned by Pima County Sherriff’s detectives about the burglary of $700 worth of tools from the mine. Apparently no charges were filed. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2209&dat=19801020&id=GaErAAAAIBAJ&sjid=ePwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=3668,4052048).

**1987** — Rescuers worked for **58 hours** to free "Baby Jessica" McClure from an eight-inch (20 cm) well casing 22 feet (6.7 m) below the ground. The story gained worldwide attention (leading to some criticism as a media circus), and later became the subject of a 1989 television movie Everybody's Baby: The Rescue of Jessica McClure on ABC. As presented in the movie, a vital part of the rescue was the use of the then relatively new technology of waterjet cutting. [*See more*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jessica_McClure).

**1987** — Five miners trapped for more than **a day** were hauled 800 feet to safety in a bucket about the size of a garbage can. They became trapped when a cable suspending a 3-ton piece of machinery snapped, sending the equipment and debris plunging into the Diamond gold and silver mine at Leadville, Colorado. The mine was owned by the Leadville Corporation. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=799&dat=19871002&id=jvBPAAAAIBAJ&sjid=_lEDAAAAIBAJ&pg=4627,126208&hl=en).

**Rescuer Deaths in October**

**1896** — [No. 3 Shaft Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/shaft3_news_only.htm), South Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania — 4 killed in gas explosion, 2 fire bosses suffocated by afterdamp in attempting rescue.

**1913** — [Dawson No. 2 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/stag_cannon.htm), Dawson, New Mexico — Of the 284 men working in the mine, 14 men escaped from an unaffected area of the mine, and nine others, unconscious at the bottom of the shaft were later rescued by a crew wearing apparatus. Two helmet men, James Laird and William Poyser, were lost that night when they overtaxed the oxygen supply by overexertion and going in farther than instructed. The oxygen was supplied at a fixed rate and when they tried to remove the oxygen bottles to breathe from them, they were overcome by afterdamp. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=g28LAAAAIBAJ&sjid=5lMDAAAAIBAJ&pg=6401,5233238&dq=stag+canon&hl=en).

**1916** — [Jamison No. 7 Mine Explosion and Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/jamison_1916_news_only.htm), Barrackville, West Virginia — Lewis M. Jones, a mining engineer from the U. S. Bureau of Mines in Pittsbugh became asphyxiated in the Jamison No. 7 Mine fire at Barrackville, West Virginia. When Jones and seven others failed to return to the surface, additional rescuers were dispatched to bring them out. All of the initial party recovered except Jones. 9 other miners lost their lives in the disaster. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2199&dat=19161021&id=dSxdAAAAIBAJ&sjid=31oNAAAAIBAJ&pg=3466,1963892).

Related incident: On November 13, 1917, Samuel T. McMahon and Bryce Warren lost their lives while wearing Fleuss oxygen breathing apparatus in a sealed fire area in the No. 7 mine of the Jamison Coal & Coke Company, Barrackville, West Virginia.

**1916** — [Marvel No. 2 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/marvel_news_only.htm), Marvel, Alabama — Eighteen men entered the mine and all were killed in the explosion, except one pumper who was burned but escaped. A rescue worker without rescue apparatus was overcome and was killed by a fall from a ladder.

**1930** — [Dalton Coal Company Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/dalton_mine_fire.htm), Dalton, Ohio — On October 8, 1930, Rush D. Hiller, an undertaker of Canton, Ohio, lost his life while wearing a ½-hour McCaa oxygen breathing apparatus on the property of the Dalton Coal Company, Dalton, Ohio.

**1940** — [Wanamie Colliery Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/wanamie_mine_fire.htm), Wanamie, Pennsylvania — On October 6, 1940, Reese Phillips and Gray Lacey lost their lives while wearing Gibbs oxygen breathing apparatus after entering a sealed fire area at the Wanamie Colliery of the Glen Alden Coal Co., Wanamie, Pennsylvania.

**1956** — [Wharton Auger Mine Asphyxiations](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/wharton_news_only.htm), Ohio — Two men died from asphyxiation and a third man was overcome in a rescue attempt at 7:15 a.m., Friday, October 12, 1956.

**1970** — [Open-Pit Uranium Mine Electrocution](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/tenneco_news_only.htm), Texas — A miner was electrocuted when he drove a portable drill rig with the mast up into a high voltage powerline. In an attempt to rescue the truck driver, another miner was also electrocuted.

**2002** — [Storm Decline Exploration](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/milligan.htm), Elko, Nevada — Team trainer, Theodore Milligan and team member, Dale Spring were fatally injured when they collapsed from excessive heat while evaluating the conditions in an inactive gold mine. The pair's failure to have coolant cartridges installed in their breathing apparatus was identified as a principle contributing factor.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Successful Mine Rescues in November**

**1878** — [Sullivan Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/sullivan.htm), Sullivan, Indiana — As a result of an explosion in the Sullivan mine, ten men were killed by the shock or soon died of suffocation. There were at the time 27 miners at work, of whom 15 were in the lower vein. Seven of these were saved after a lapse of over an hour, but how they managed to survive in the dense fumes and damp was a mystery. The 12 men on the upper vein were badly stunned but unhurt. Joseph Handford, Tom Irwin and Jack Smith distinguished themselves for their bravery in periling their lives to save the living and the recovery of the dead. The last named especially won the commendation of the whole community.

**1888** — At 5:30 p.m. on November 9, an explosion occurred in the [Frontenac Shaft No. 2](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/frontenac_news_only.htm) of the Cherokee and Pittsburg Coal Company. At 4 a.m. (**10½ hours**), five had been rescued, and at 1 p.m. (**19½ hours**), four more were brought out alive.

**1901** — Four days after the start of the [Pocahontas Baby mine fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/pocahontas_baby_news_only.htm) in Pocahontas, Virginia, Fritz Moulter was found barely alive, entombed in a room on the east side. Six physicians worked with him before he was restored to consciousness.

**1902** — [Luke Fidler Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/fidler_news_only.htm), Shamokin, Pennsylvania — Several miners working near the scene of the accident made a rush for the foot of the shaft and were overcome by the after damp following the explosion. They were rescued after an **undisclosed period** by the relief party and sent at once to the gangway.

**1903** — [Ferguson Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/ferguson_news_only.htm), Dunbar, Pennsylvania — After **an hour** of frantic search, nine miners were picked up by the rescuing party in different positions of exhaustion. As they reached the open air they fell prostrate in the arms of their wives and children, who had spent that long, weary hour at the pit's mouth fearing that they would never see their loved ones again. Their faces were blackened, their hair scorched and clothing burned almost to shreds from the flames that followed the explosion.

**1906** — [San Toy No. 1 Mine Shaft Disaster](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/san_toy_news_only.htm), Corning, Ohio — Three men, who clung to the cage in which they were riding, were saved after an **undisclosed period**. The men were ascending in the mule cage when the door, which had been left open, caught against the sides of the shaft. Five were killed when they were thrown from the cage and fell 150 feet to the bottom of the shaft.

**1907** — A cave-in deep inside the Draper Mine at Gilberton, Pennsylvania, followed by a inrush of culm and water from the surface trapped Michael McCabe for **87 hours** before rescuers managed to free him. He was released from his prison barely alive. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1913&dat=19071112&id=ZtQgAAAAIBAJ&sjid=umoFAAAAIBAJ&pg=4413,668377&hl=en).

**1909** — There were tales of unbelievable suffering and endurance following the [Cherry Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/cherry.htm). One group of miners, 500 feet underground, had built a wall of mud, rocks, and timbers to block off the poisonous gases. They were in total darkness with only a pool of water leaking from a coal seam to drink. After **8 days** of confinement, they could bear it no longer. They tore down the barricade and began crawling through the tunnels. Finally, they heard the sounds of a search party. Twenty-one men still alive from this group were rescued. 259 miners were killed in the disaster.

**1910** — Fifty men who were working in the section of the [Shoal Creek No. 1 Mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/shoal_creek.htm) where the explosion occurred were rescued after an **undisclosed period** according to the mine management. Six miners died in the incident.

**1910** — [Jumbo Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/jumbo_news_only.htm), Durant, Oklahoma — After an **undisclosed period**, just one miner was rescued from the shaft explosion of the Jumbo Mine, operated by the Choctaw Asphalt Company of St. Louis. Five miners descending in cars were blown to atoms and eight others were entombed and asphyxiated by the deadly fumes.

**1911** — [Bottom Creek Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/bottom_creek_news_only.htm), Vivian, West Virginia — By heroic work the rescuers reached the scene of the disaster after an **undisclosed period** and found engineer Alexander Williams and 3 other men who were brought out alive. All were injured. Hoping to reach others of the entombed men the rescuers pushed the work with all haste. One after another they found the victims and by midnight all but two had been brought out of the mine. The dead included 4 other engineers.

**1914** — Bonar Mine, East Bernstadt, Kentucky - Three men were overcome by powder smoke. They were rescued by the State mine inspector and the mine superintendent. One miner was revived by artificial respiration; the other two died. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1915_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1914** — Cave-in at Sibley Iron Mine, Ely, Minnesota - Six men were entombed. One man was rescued after **112 hours** by parties led by company officials. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1915_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1914** — Fall of Top Rock at West Brookside Mine, Pottsville, Pennsylvania - Two men were imprisoned for **four days**, when they were rescued by a party led by company officials. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1915_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1915** — [Northwestern Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/northwestern.htm), Ravensdale, Washington — A rescue party under the superintendent at once commenced recovery and repair of the auxiliary slope and rescued 4 men; 3 were unconscious and were given artificial respiration, but 1 died.

**1916** — [Bessie Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/bessie.htm), Palos, Alabama - About **15 hours** after the explosion, a trained apparatus crew of 5 men found 3 men at a break in the air line. The party was then about 1,000 feet from fresh air, and the men were able to proceed to safety with the aid of the apparatus crew. Thirty men were killed by the explosion, 5 escaped unassisted, and 3 were rescued as noted. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/1917_Annual_Report_of_Bureau_of_Mines.pdf).

**1922** — [Anthracite No. 4 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/cerrillos.htm), Cerrillos, New Mexico — 14 injured miners were rushed to the surface by the volunteer rescue crew and were taken to a doctor's, a dentist's offices and a nearby home, which were hurriedly turned into hospitals. Women of Madrid worked as nurses with the aid of doctors and other volunteers. First aid was administered here, then the injured were placed in a box car and taken to Albuquerque, where they were placed in hospitals. The injured were burned and in some cases their arms or legs broken.

**1922** — [Dolomite No. 3 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/Dolomite3.htm), Dolomite, Alabama — An unidentified foreman assembled thirty workers after the blast took place and ordered all to remain with him and work on fixing up brattices with stones and canvas to shut off the dreaded afterdamp gas that he felt sure was to follow the explosion. When the fans started up again, the air cleared sufficiently to indicate that it was safe to tear down the temporary wall and the foreman led his men out. One miner, who objected to remaining with the rest of the men was found only a few feet away from the temporary brattice. He had become a victim of the gas.

**1922** — [Reilly No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/Reilly.htm), Spangler, Pennsylvania — 33 miners were taken out alive after an **undisclosed period**, but three succumbed to their injuries. Of the remaining 30 rescued, all were at the Spangler Hospital and the attending physicians, who were doing everything in their power for them, said all would recover.

**1926** — [Mound Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mound.htm) - An explosion killed 5 of the 18 men in the mine. Two died of burns and 3 from carbon monoxide poisoning. Two injured men were rescued **several hours** later and 11 escaped uninjured. Gas accumulated by the wrecking of a door, was ignited by the arcing of a trolley wheel of a locomotive. Coal dust was ignited, but the explosion was stopped by rock dust and water on the entries.

**1926** — Six miners were trapped by water in the Tomhicken Mine of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company in Pennsylvania on November 16, 1926. One man died, but five men were rescued **8 days** later. The five rescued were Henry Kirchdoerfer, August Yensick, Michael Lorincz, John Gondera and Mike Lawrence. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=950&dat=19261125&id=cPNPAAAAIBAJ&sjid=1VQDAAAAIBAJ&pg=2176,6147702).

**1930** — [Lutie No. 5 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/lutie_news_only.htm), Lutie, Oklahoma — The explosion sealed only one entry, known as number 10 1-2. About 17 men were said to be in this entry. Workmen reached entry 10 1-2 about **two hours** after the explosion and brought one man to the surface alive. Two other miners, L. B. Boyd and Lon Swindle were brought out of mine alive but later died in Hartshorne Hospital. Bodies of the other men were brought up slowly and taken to a morgue.

**1930** — [Millfield No. 6 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/millfield_no6.htm), Millfield, Ohio — 19 miners were rescued **10 hours** after the explosion. The miners, most of them unconscious, were found behind a ventilation partition. John Dean, Inside Foreman, is credited with saving the lives of the rescued miners, including him. Dean and the other miners erected and gathered behind a ventilation partition which protected them from the deadly gases. Dean risked several trips into the smoke-filled entries to carry some of his comrades to safety before he collapsed and had to be carried to safety.

**1932** — Unnamed Anthracite Coal Mine Cave-in, Avoca, Pennsylvania — Robert Hughes and Joseph P. Tigue helped to rescue Thomas A. Coleman and Louis J. Doran from a mine cave-in, Avoca, Pennsylvania, November 8, 1932. While Coleman, 37, miner, and Doran, 45, mine laborer, were digging coal in an abandoned entry that connected with a narrow shaft, a collapse occurred. Coleman was buried under shale at the bottom of the shaft. Doran was knocked to the floor of the entry and lay under shale four feet deep 18 feet from the shaft. Using their hands, Hughes, 50, miner, and Tigue removed the shale from Coleman. Occasionally shale sloughed off the sides and dropped from overhead. In three hours they removed enough shale to free Coleman, who was pulled out. Hughes and Tigue worked all afternoon and far into the night to make a trench to Doran. They erected posts, piled the shale behind boards resting against the posts, and finally reached Doran. While they were removing debris from over him, the sides of the entry caved in. Hughes and the other man ran to the shaft and were hoisted out. During the remainder of the night and the next morning all of the shale and other debris were removed by men under safe conditions, adequate braces having been placed, and Doran was taken out. He suffered injuries from which he died seven hours later. Both men were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=32648).

**1933** — Five men were rescued from a mine after an **undisclosed period** in South Scranton, Pennsylvania following a cave-in. Two of the men, Paul Mariello and Carmel Comparta, were seriously hurt, suffering from internal injuries. The other three men left the scene before they could be identified. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19331122&id=PmYhAAAAIBAJ&sjid=vYcFAAAAIBAJ&pg=3444,4399896&hl=en).

**1942** — [West Kentucky No. 10 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/west_kentucky_10.htm), Providence, Kentucky — Following the West Kentucky No. 10 explosion, the rescue party headed by District Mine Inspector James Fugate brought out nine trapped miners after an **undisclosed period**. They were unable to reach six other victims in time to save their lives.

**1950** — Unnamed Anthracite Coal Mine Cave-in, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania — Walter Legins, 39, coal mine shaftman, helped to rescue Stephen C. Grozio, 49, coal mine shaftman, from a cave-in in a mine, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, November 20, 1950. At night while Grozio and two other men were at work on a platform in a mine-shaft 1,160 feet below ground-level, a cave-in occurred above them. Grozio jumped quickly onto a cage partly protected by a metal canopy in an adjoining section of the shaft, as a huge mass of debris struck the platform and demolished it. The other two men fell with the debris from 250 feet above the bottom of the shaft. The cage was wrenched from its guides but remained suspended 150 feet below a landing. The rumble of falling debris was heard at the surface, but the extent of the cave-in could not be determined. A group comprising two foremen, Legins, and three other men entered the mine at another shaft and reached the landing. Visibility into the damaged shaft was negligible, but all noted that a section of the shaft opposite the landing had fallen away. Crozio's head-lamp was dimly sighted. In response to calls, Grozio apprised the others of conditions and told them his hands were numbed. Only Legins volunteered to descend to Crozio. Although aware that another cave-in might be imminent, Legins with a rope tied to him entered the shaft and was lowered to the cage, where he removed the rope. Using a metal bar, he broke away an obstruction in the shaft above the cage. Calling repeatedly to the landing with directions for the raising and lowering of the cage, Legins and Crozio after 20 minutes engaged the guide and were drawn to the landing. Legins and Grozio were taken to the surface. After extensive digging operations, the bodies of the other two men were recovered; and the shaft was closed permanently. Crozio was chilled, and he and Legins were nervous. Both recovered. Walter Legins was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=42157).

**1954** — Abandoned Anthracite Coal Mine Fall of Person, Shaft, Pennsylvania — Alden A. Hartz, Jr., 27, construction worker, rescued Catherine M. Murphy, 72, from a cave-in, Shaft, Pennsylvania, November 23, 1954. Mrs. Murphy was crossing a field near her home when a cave-in occurred above an abandoned coal mine underlying that area. Ground gave way beneath her; and she fell into a hole 70 feet deep caused by the cave-in, landing on a mound of fallen earth which rose 20 feet above the bottom of the hole. She sustained severe injuries and partially was buried by earth. The hole was four feet wide at the surface and thence downward to the bottom widened irregularly to 40 feet, the sides having numerous overhanging protuberances. Attracted by the screams of Mrs. Murphy, Hartz and others gathered at the hole. A 20-foot ladder was placed on the ground across the hole. Although he could observe that the sides of the hole were unstable, Hartz, who observed others already there were reluctant to enter the hole, volunteered at once to descend to Mrs. Murphy and tied the end of 150-foot rope to himself. He was lowered into the opening carrying a hand lamp. Three men played out the rope, and another man lay prone on the ladder to guide the rope as Hartz was lowered 50 feet to the mound. Descending 12 feet on the mound, he found Mrs. Murphy and freed her from the fallen earth. She became unconscious. He had difficulty obtaining footing on the muddy slope and called to the men above to pull slowly on the rope. Hartz drew Mrs. Murphy to the top of the mound. He saw small stones and dirt falling from the sides of the hole and realized another cave-in might be imminent but removed the rope from himself and fastened it securely to Mrs. Murphy, deciding because of her injuries to have her taken up separately while he waited on the mound. At Hartz's call the men lifted Mrs. Murphy to the surface. The rope was returned to Hartz, and he was drawn rapidly from the hole after being in it seven minutes. Mrs. Murphy was rushed to a hospital but died of her injuries two days later. Hartz was nervous but recovered. Mr. Hartz was bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=43367).

**1957** — Unnamed Coal Mine Entrapment, Stockdale, Pennsylvania — Robert P. Thompson, 14, schoolboy, died after rescuing John T. Vingless, 13, schoolboy, from a cave-in, Coupon, Pennsylvania, November 2, 1957. While John and Robert were digging for coal in a small pit four and a half feet deep at an abandoned strip mine, one side of the pit collapsed and clay, slate, and coal in a high ridge above it slid onto them. Both boys, who were kneeling in the pit with their heads two feet below the top, were covered chest-deep. John's hands were pinned, and a lump of slate 18 inches square and four inches thick rested on his head, pressing his face into the clay so that he barely was able to breathe. Although he had sustained serious injuries to his back, chest, and legs, Robert freed his hands and dug himself out. Unable to stand, he began crawling toward a nearby road to summon help, but at John’s pleas he dragged himself back to the pit. Although in considerable pain, he moved the lump of slate from John's head. John then dug himself out with some assistance from Robert, who removed several small pieces of slate. John walked and Robert crawled 200 feet to the road, calling for help. John’s mother was attracted, and the boys then were removed to a hospital. John sustained a wrenched back and hip injuries but recovered. Robert's injuries were extensive, including damage to his spinal cord, which caused his death later in the day. Robert P. Thompson was posthumously bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=44281).

**1962** — After falling 200 feet down the abandoned Idaho Bride gold mine near Idaho Springs, Colorado and spending **14 hours** in the murky depths, Airman Chester West was rescued. It took rescuers, lead by District Mine Inspector, Norman Blake, three hours to lead West out of the winding tunnels. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=266&dat=19621110&id=MucrAAAAIBAJ&sjid=R2cFAAAAIBAJ&pg=5630,5472200&hl=en).

**1968** — Eight miners were rescued **five hours** after explosions ripped through the [No. 9 mine](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/farmington.htm) in Mannington, West Virginia owned by the Consolidation Coal Company. 13 other miners managed to exit the mine shortly after the 1st of at least 3 explosions tore through the mine. This disaster, which killed 78 miners, triggered Congress to pass the [Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969](http://arlweb.msha.gov/MSHAINFO/MSHAINF2.HTM). [*See video*](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzSmgj_7I-M).

Among the 21 miners rescued from the Mountaineer Coal Co. (Consol) No. 9 mine was Matt Menas, Jr., whose father died in a similar disaster in the same mine 14 years earlier. The explosion on Nov. 13, 1954, killed 16 men. The mine at that time was owned by the Jamison Coal Co., and was called Jamison No. 9. [*See Video*](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DK2qEveoIk). [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2209&dat=19681121&id=qCJbAAAAIBAJ&sjid=504NAAAAIBAJ&pg=6364,2506695).

Here is a list of the other miners rescued, all of whom are from the area around Mannington, Fairmont and Farmington: Byron Jones; Nathaniel Stephens, 48; Charles Biafore; Nick Rose, 23; Roy Wilson; James Herron; Paul Sabo; Walter Slavikosky; Henry Conway; Nezer Vandergrift, 48; Ralph Starkey, 41; Lewis Lake, 55; George Wilson, 54; Alva Davis, 29; Raymond Parker; Robert Bland; Robert Mullen; Gary Martin; Charles Crumm; and Brad Hillberry.

**1985** — Following an avalanche at the remote Bessie "G" gold mine in Colorado’s San Juan Mountains, rescuers, including officers from the LaPlata County Sheriff’s Department worked for **24 hours** to rescue Lester Jay Morlang. His partner, Jack Ritter, died of suffocation when the men were buried around 6 p.m. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1320&dat=19851120&id=Ia5PAAAAIBAJ&sjid=dAYEAAAAIBAJ&pg=2342,1498871&hl=en).

**Rescuer Deaths in November**

**1901** — [Baby Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/pocahontas_baby_news_only.htm), Pocahontas, Virginia — While the fires were being fought, a small explosion occurred, which injured no one, but blew out some of the brattices and allowed the smoke and gases to pass through into the adjoining West Mine. Nine men in the West Mine were overcome by smoke and suffocated. On November 22, 1901, a rescue party of eight men was also overcome by gases in the West Mine and suffocated.

**1903** — [Koarsarge Gold Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/alder.htm), Virginia City, Montana — At the first alarm the 170 employees hastened to extinguish the flames. The Mine Superintendent entered the tunnel through the fire and smoke to warn the entombed miners and to aid them to escape. He returned and tried to enter the mine by the air shaft but fell from the ladder and was killed.

**1909** — [St. Paul No. 2 Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/cherry.htm), Cherry, Illinois — " . . . there were 259 men and boys who were never saved despite great deeds of heroism by volunteer rescue teams. Sadly, that heroism was rewarded with death for no less than twelve of the rescuers. They were a hastily assembled team of people from the town who went down in the cage six times, each time dragging more miners to safety. From the seventh trip into the hell below, however, none returned alive."

**1910** — [Victor American No. 3 Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/victor_american.htm), Delagua, Colorado — A member of the rescue crew who gave his breathing apparatus to one of the four men found behind a barricade stayed behind to wait for the party's return. He was later found overcome in another part of the mine and died the next morning.

**1911** — [Adrian Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/adrian_news_only.htm), Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania — It is believed that the six dead miners, realizing that there had been an explosion, dropped their dinner buckets and ran further into the mine to rescue their fellow workmen. The dinner buckets were found about a mile and a half from the innermost workings of the mine, which is five miles from the entrance.

**1917** — [Jamison No. 7 Mine Explosion and Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/jamison_1916_news_only.htm), Barrackville, West Virginia — On November 13, 1917, in an incident related to the initial disaster which occurred in October 1916, Samuel T. McMahon and Bryce Warren lost their lives while wearing Fleuss oxygen breathing apparatus in a sealed fire area in the No. 7 mine of the Jamison Coal & Coke Company, Barrackville, West Virginia.

**1948** — [Nethken Mine Asphyxiations](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/nethken.htm), Kitzmiller, Maryland — One of those suffocated in the Nethken Mine was a miner, Robert Jackson from Kitzmiller, Maryland, age 25, who had gone down the shaft to warn the other 4 miners of the danger and lead them out. He had been married less than 6 months.

**1957** — Unnamed Coal Mine Entrapment, Stockdale, Pennsylvania — Robert P. Thompson, 14, schoolboy, died after rescuing John T. Vingless, 13, schoolboy, from a cave-in, Coupon, Pennsylvania, November 2, 1957. While John and Robert were digging for coal in a small pit four and a half feet deep at an abandoned strip mine, one side of the pit collapsed and clay, slate, and coal in a high ridge above it slid onto them. Both boys, who were kneeling in the pit with their heads two feet below the top, were covered chest-deep. John's hands were pinned, and a lump of slate 18 inches square and four inches thick rested on his head, pressing his face into the clay so that he barely was able to breathe. Although he had sustained serious injuries to his back, chest, and legs, Robert freed his hands and dug himself out. Unable to stand, he began crawling toward a nearby road to summon help, but at John’s pleas he dragged himself back to the pit. Although in considerable pain, he moved the lump of slate from John's head. John then dug himself out with some assistance from Robert, who removed several small pieces of slate. John walked and Robert crawled 200 feet to the road, calling for help. John’s mother was attracted, and the boys then were removed to a hospital. John sustained a wrenched back and hip injuries but recovered. Robert's injuries were extensive, including damage to his spinal cord, which caused his death later in the day. Robert P. Thompson was posthumously bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=44281).

**2013** — [Revenue-Virginius Mine Asphyxiation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/revenue.htm), Ouray, Colorado — A miner, Nicholas Cappanno, did not return from an area of the mine where an explosive had been previously detonated. The shift foreman, Rick Williams, went in to search for him. Eventually they were both found by other miners working in the area, and those miners immediately evacuated the mine. Mine rescue teams entered the mine and found the two others. During the recovery operation, they detected fatal levels of carbon monoxide. The teams brought the victims to the surface. Twenty miners were taken to the hospital, and three were kept overnight. All 20 were subsequently released.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Successful Mine Rescues in December**

**1869** — December 18, 1869 - The East Sugar Loaf Colliery cave-in in Stockton, Pennsylvania claimed 10 lives on Dec. 18, 1869; only three bodies were ever recovered. The cave-in occurred at 5 a.m. when two houses were swallowed into the ground. A third home went into the subsidence and all but one person got out. It was a young girl who was later rescued from a rooftop. One outcome of the Stockton Mine cave-in was that houses were not built so close to mines after the incident. [*See more*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/sugar_loaf_1869.htm).

**1885** — [Nanticoke No. 1 Mine Inundation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/nanticoke1.htm), Nanticoke, Pennsylvania — Of the dead, many were fathers and sons of families throughout Nanticoke. One family lost three sons in the disaster, with the fourth being rescued "with difficulty," according to the Wilkes-Barre Record.

**1895** — [Cumnock Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.miningquiz.com/saxsewell/cumnock1_news_only.htm), Cumnock, North Carolina — After pumping fresh air into the shafts following the Cumnock mine explosion, several miners were prevailed upon to venture down and investigate. They found and brought out 24 men from shafts Nos. 2 and 3. Five or six of them were badly wounded and some of them would probably die; others were slightly wounded.

**1899** — [Carbon Hill No. 7 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/carbon_hill_news_only.htm), Carbonado, Washington — Two men were rescued more than **18 hours** after the explosion. They are Peter Merp, a Frenchman, and Michael Kulsh, a Pole. Merp had been blindly groping around in the darkness most of the night on his hands and knees, seeking for some avenue of escape.

**1901** — [McAlester No. 1 Hoisting Disaster](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mcalester.htm), Hartshorne, Oklahoma — Two miners were rescued from the McAlester No. 1 mine after an **undisclosed period**. The cage was ascending with eight men and about 100 feet from the bottom of the shaft, it jumped its guidings and 6 of the 8 dropped to the shaft bottom to their death. The other two, who held on to the cage had to be drawn up to the surface with ropes. These men were said to be injured slightly.

**1905** — [Horton Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/horton.htm), Horton, West Virginia — After an **undisclosed period**, two of the miners who were in the more remote sections of the mine were rescued. These men, who were overcome by smoke, were revived after being brought out.

**1906** — Rescuers worked around the clock to release Lindsay B. Hicks from his tomb in the Edison Tunnel near Bakersfield, California. Trapped there with five other miners on December 7, Hicks’ freedom finally came after his **15 day entrapment**. He was the only survivor. On December 12, speaking through a pipe, Hicks told rescuers that he had survived on 40 cents of chewing tobacco. Victory finally came for his rescuers on December 22nd at 11:25 p.m. [*Source document*](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/edison.htm).

**1908** — [Lick Branch Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/lick_branch_1908_news_only.htm), Switchback, West Virginia — At 11 o'clock p.m., **8 hours** after the explosion, eighteen of the entombed men had been taken out of the colliery alive. They had been stifled by smoke and were not seriously injured enough to make their removal to a hospital necessary.

**1908** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Brockwayville, Pennsylvania — William P. Harris, 30, boss mine driver, assisted in an attempt to rescue Michele Rubino, 28, miner, and helped to rescue Francis P. De Santis, 28, miner, from a mine cave-in, Brockwayville, Pennsylvania, December 12, 1908. De Santis and two others were trying to rescue Rubino, who had been caught by a fall of rock, when a second fall occurred, catching DeSantis’s trouser leg and pinning him to the floor. While other falls impended, Harris crawled close enough to hand De Santis a knife, with which he freed himself. Rubino, along with his two companions, Guiseppe Petruccelli, and Vincenzo Stefanelli, when released, were found to be dead. Mr. De Santis survived. For their demonstrated bravery in the rescue operation, Messrs. Harris, Petruccelli (posthumously), and Stefanelli (posthumously) were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=4859).

**1909** — [Mine A Explosion and Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mine_a.htm), Herrin, Illinois — James Guinney, Superintendent of the mine, and Robert Hueston, manager, headed the first relay of rescuers within five minutes of the explosion. Despite the blackdamp, they penetrated the workings. After sending to the surface three unconscious persons they found the first of the deceased miners. Afterdamp then forced them to retreat.

**1910** — [Greeno Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/greeno.htm), Tacoma, Virginia — Four miners were either rescued or otherwise made their way to the surface after more than **twelve hours** following the explosion in the Greeno mine which killed eight. The four included John Swede, James Rosenburg, John Ritsky, and G. E. Lehman. Rosenburg was badly burned on his head, face and hands. The others were reported to be in good condition. Note: corrected name spellings are taken from the final accident investigation report.

**1911** — Four miners were found alive after an **undisclosed period** following an explosion in the Cross Mountain mine at Briceville, Tennessee. Discovery of Andrew Johnson was made when a dead miner was found in a sitting position in one of the interior chambers. Johnson and the other three were suffering from black damp. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1296&dat=19111214&id=QwZFAAAAIBAJ&sjid=i48DAAAAIBAJ&pg=4202,1346283&hl=en).

**1915** — A rock slide choked the main gangway in the Newcastle Mine of the Pacific Coast Coal Company near Seattle, Washington, trapping Thomas Zathias for **nine hours**. Rescuers expected to find his crushed body when they broke through the 60 feet of debris, but instead, they found him calmly sitting on his dinner bucket, awaiting deliverance. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1982&dat=19151223&id=UHMzAAAAIBAJ&sjid=Z-MFAAAAIBAJ&pg=4741,6772322&hl=en).

**1916** — [Fidelity No. 9 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/mayer_news_only.htm), Stone City, Kansas — Eleven miners were rescued from the Fidelity No. 9 mine after an **undisclosed period**. Overcome by the toxic gases, these men had to be resuscitated by pulmotor. Some of those rescued were badly burned.

**1923** — Unnamed Clay Mine Cave-in, Brazil, Indiana — Reuben A. Brown, 50, mine driver, attempted to save Andrew J. Hamilton, 35, clay miner, from a mine cave-in, Brazil, Indiana, December 3, 1923. Hamilton was caught under a fall of shale in a cross cut in a clay mine. Brown, who was 14 feet from Hamilton, hurried to him but was unable to lift a large slab of shale that rested on his back. Three other miners were attracted, and as Brown and two of them attempted to lift the slab off Hamilton, a second fall occurred. Brown was struck and held fast against the wall, and one of the miners, J. Franklin Elson, was instantly killed. Four other miners then arrived, and although bits of shale continued to drop, they freed Brown and Hamilton. Hamilton sustained a broken arm and cuts and bruises. Brown was severely lacerated and bruised and was disabled five weeks. The following men were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery: Reuben A. Brown; J. Herbert Batchelor; Amos J. Stamper; R. Delane Tabor; Walter Penman; Robert F. Buchholz; John E. Martin; and J. Franklin Elson (posthumously). [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=24631).

**1925** — [Overton No. 2 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/overton_news_only.htm), Acmar, Alabama — A Negro miner owed his escape to his mule. Back somewhere in the pit when the gas was worst and conditions appeared darkest for the entombed men, out through the slope opening flashed a big fat mule. Clinging to the mule's tail was the Negro who had become temporarily blinded by the blast and took this means of saving himself. He said he knew the mule would "get out if there was any getting."

**1929** — [Old Town Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/old_town_news_only.htm), McAlester, Oklahoma — Two miners found their exit blocked after the explosion. At this point, one of these men, Frank Gonzales, saw a third miner, Arnold Kissinger, collapse. Mr. Gonzales and the second miner, Joe Ponsella, next dragged Mr. Kissinger into a room where there wasn't much smoke and worked with him for about three hours. "After awhile, said Gonzales, when no one came to help us, we believed we would die. I said my prayers but I was not scared." Rescue workers reached the three men **five hours** after the explosion.

**1932** — [Morgan Jones Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/jones_news_only.htm), Madrid, New Mexico — Following the first impact of the explosion, some ten men near the outer edge of the area made a dash for the main passageway. Three of these, including Jimmie Taylor, 19, son of H. L. Taylor, assistant superintendent of the company's Madrid mines, were overcome. They were picked up and carried out safely by their comrades. Andrew Sampria, rushing out, picked up a prostrate form and carried it with him. When he had reached the area of clean air, he learned that it was his own son, Pete, he had rescued.

**1940** — December 31, 1940 — **18 hours** after a 70-foot roof fall entrapment in the Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Company’s Kent No. 2 Mine in McIntyre, PA, the following miners were rescued: Edgar Swan, Louis Canton, J. Fulmer, Leland Stutchell and Paul Cochran. Six months later, a mine explosion in the Kent No. 2 mine would take the lives of 7 miners. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2202&dat=19401231&id=BQsmAAAAIBAJ&sjid=N_0FAAAAIBAJ&pg=3175,37137&hl=en).

**1940** — [No. 4 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/raleigh.htm), Beckley, West Virginia — Soon after the explosion in the No. 4 mine, five men were brought out and taken to hospitals. The injured included Albert Wade, Harry Sexton, Joe Saunders, Roy Hill, and John Dalton. Physicians said Sexton may die but the others would probably recover.

**1950** — His life saved by the same huge beam that kept him prisoner for **54 hours**, John Wolti was freed from his tomb by rescuers in the Big 4 coal mine at Selleck, Washington. Wolti was brought out of the mine with a crushed arm and suffering from shock and was expected to be hospitalized for a week to ten days. [*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=860&dat=19501216&id=wgcKAAAAIBAJ&sjid=fUoDAAAAIBAJ&pg=6345,2797227&hl=en).

**1951** — One miner, Cecil Sanders, was rescued after **60 hours** from the Orient No. 2 coal mine in West Frankfort, Illinois following an explosion which killed 119. At that time, this disaster was the nation's worst in the preceding 23 years. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=897&dat=19511226&id=3BgMAAAAIBAJ&sjid=DVADAAAAIBAJ&pg=4032,1640820).

**1957** — Fourteen miners were rescued after more than **five hours** following an explosion at a Pocahontas Fuel Company No. 31 mine near Amonate, Virginia. Eleven miners died in the blast. The mine is officially listed as being located in McDowell County, West Virginia. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1817&dat=19571228&id=kGUeAAAAIBAJ&sjid=5JkEAAAAIBAJ&pg=6340,4121059).

**1964** — Unnamed Anthracite Coal Mine Cave-in, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania — William Paul Holena helped to rescue Peter A. Byczkowski from a cave-in, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, December 21, 1964. When a cave-in occurred in a coal mine, Byczkowski, 54, was pinned face down under eight feet of coal and debris. After another cave-in, the mine was cleared of all rescue workers, who by then had dug a tunnel six feet into the debris to find that Byczkowski was alive. Although further slides were anticipated, Holena, 36, coal miner, and Clair S. Sigworth, a mine inspector made their way to the debris pile where Byczkowski lay partially in the tunnel, trapped by his legs. The inspector crawled into the tunnel, which was so small that he had to lie on top of Byczkowski. Working as rapidly as possible, the inspector removed coal from atop Byczkowski's legs and passed it back to Holena. Additional coal fell as the inspector worked, but he soon uncovered Byczkowski's legs. While the inspector rested outside the tunnel, Holena made repeated trips to obtain rescue tools. A mine foreman joined them. He and the inspector took turns working to free Byczkowski’s feet; when either was in the tunnel, all of his body except his feet was beneath the debris. The foreman cut Byczkowski’s boots and freed one foot, the other remaining pinned by a heavy timber against the metal conveyor on the floor of the mine. The inspector positioned a jack to move the timber, but it broke on use, and the foreman likewise broke a second jack. They and Holena then worked to bend the conveyor, after which the inspector pulled Byczkowski’s foot free, and he was removed from the debris then carried to safety. He recovered. The rescue had taken 2.5 hours. Several hours later another cave-in occurred in the area, and it required six days to uncover the body of a man who had been buried with Byczkowski. Messrs. Di Andriole, Sigworth, and Holena were given the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=48177).

**1970** — Loren Hinkle was rescued after his **24-hour** entombment following a roof fall in the Leckie Coal Company mine near Anjean, West Virginia. Rescuers delivered water and orange juice through a two-inch emergency air vent while they dug him out. Killed in the accident were R. B. Crookshanks and Charles Pitzenbarger. Ironically, Hinkle previously escaped death in a mine fire and another roof collapse. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1310&dat=19701210&id=36xVAAAAIBAJ&sjid=D-EDAAAAIBAJ&pg=6829,2026202).

**1972** — [ltmann Coal Company, Itmann No. 3 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/itmann.htm) — Three miners were brought out by rescue crews about **six hours** after the explosion. They were identified as Larry Bailey, 23, of Brenton; Dallas Mullins, 32, of Pineville; and Jerry Billings. All three were said to be in critical condition.

**1987** — Charles Simpson, Jr. was rescued **19 hours** after a roof fall accident at the Slate Top Coal Company mine near Woodbine, Kentucky. [*Source document*](http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1876&dat=19871217&id=jbAeAAAAIBAJ&sjid=hM4EAAAAIBAJ&pg=4258,921503).

**Rescuer Deaths in December**

**1906** — [Pocahontas Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/pocahontas_1906_news_only.htm), Pocahontas, Virginia — Edward Jones, the inside foreman, led the first rescue party, and when that party failed to return in a reasonable time a second rescue party under Supt. Leckie followed. Two of the Leckie party, John Odham and Ed Brown, were overcome by gas and died. Leckie barely escaped with his life. Then the third party was formed and continued the work. Meantime, the first party had reached another entrance to the mine in safety, and sent word over the mountain announcing that fact.

**1907** — [Monongah Nos. 6 and 8 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/monongah.htm), Monongah, West Virginia — John Narey died in the mine rescue effort during the mine disaster at Monongah Mine, West Virginia Dec. 6, 1907. (from an article in the "Latrobe Bulletin," Latrobe, PA, Dec. 18, 1907.) In all, three men are said to have lost their lives in the rescue work at Monongah, apparently overcome with smoke or poisonous gases lingering in the mines because they had no proper equipment for entering exploding mines, or proper equipment to revive rescuers or miners who had succumbed to their smoke and poisonous gases.

**1908** — Unnamed Coal Mine Cave-in, Brockwayville, Pennsylvania — William P. Harris, 30, boss mine driver, assisted in an attempt to rescue Michele Rubino, 28, miner, and helped to rescue Francis P. De Santis, 28, miner, from a mine cave-in, Brockwayville, Pennsylvania, December 12, 1908. De Santis and two others were trying to rescue Rubino, who had been caught by a fall of rock, when a second fall occurred, catching DeSantis’s trouser leg and pinning him to the floor. While other falls impended, Harris crawled close enough to hand De Santis a knife, with which he freed himself. Rubino, along with his two companions, Guiseppe Petruccelli, and Vincenzo Stefanelli, when released, were found to be dead. Mr. De Santis survived. For their demonstrated bravery in the rescue operation, Messrs. Harris, Petruccelli (posthumously), and Stefanelli (posthumously) were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery. [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=4859).

**1921** — [Satanic Mine Fire](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/satanic_news_only.htm), Morrison, Colorado — Six men were killed by firedamp in the Satanic coal mine of the Colorado Collieries Company, when they attempted to place a bulkhead on the 100-foot level of an abandoned shaft, used as an air course, to stop a fire. The only man brought to the surface, apparently still alive, was Eugene F. Bovie, Sr., of Morrison, father of a young miner, who was overcome when he attempted to rescue his son.

**1921** — [No. 1 Mine Explosion](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/ellsworth.htm), Ellsworth, Pennsylvania — On December 31, 1921, Albert Gilmore, a section foreman, lost his life in the No. 1 mine of the Ellsworth Collieries Company, Ellsworth, Pennsylvania, while wearing a Gibbs 2-hour oxygen breathing apparatus following a local mine explosion.

**1923** — Unnamed Clay Mine Cave-in, Brazil, Indiana — Reuben A. Brown, 50, mine driver, attempted to save Andrew J. Hamilton, 35, clay miner, from a mine cave-in, Brazil, Indiana, December 3, 1923. Hamilton was caught under a fall of shale in a cross cut in a clay mine. Brown, who was 14 feet from Hamilton, hurried to him but was unable to lift a large slab of shale that rested on his back. Three other miners were attracted, and as Brown and two of them attempted to lift the slab off Hamilton, a second fall occurred. Brown was struck and held fast against the wall, and one of the miners, J. Franklin Elson, was instantly killed. Four other miners then arrived, and although bits of shale continued to drop, they freed Brown and Hamilton. Hamilton sustained a broken arm and cuts and bruises. Brown was severely lacerated and bruised and was disabled five weeks. The following men were bestowed the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery: Reuben A. Brown; J. Herbert Batchelor; Amos J. Stamper; R. Delane Tabor; Walter Penman; Robert F. Buchholz; John E. Martin; and J. Franklin Elson (posthumously). [*Source document*](http://mychfc.org/Awardee.aspx?hero=24631).

**1925** — Charles Hjurguist died while he and three others were searching for two miners trapped in the Fairview Gold Mine fire and cave-in on December 4 near Nederland, Colorado. One of the trapped men died in the fire and the other was removed in serious condition and hospitalized. Three other smoke-affected rescuers were also hospitalized in serious condition.[*Source document*](https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=897&dat=19251205&id=v7BaAAAAIBAJ&sjid=8k8DAAAAIBAJ&pg=5739,7021245&hl=en)*.*

**1985** — [No. 2 Slope Afterdamp Asphyxiation](http://usminedisasters.com/saxsewell/msw.htm), Carlstown, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania — Rick Wolfgang helped his injured brother from the No. 2 Slope of the MS&W Coal Company, but perished when he returned to the 4-foot wide tunnel to try to save his father, Gene Wolfgang. Toxic gas flooded the area after the men set off a dynamite charge in the mine. Frank Benner also perished in the accident.