

Colorado Abandoned Mine Injuries and Rescues

(Since no official records are kept, this list is compiled from state records and search and rescue volunteer organizations.)

October 7, 1957 -- A man who was trapped while exploring a mine, was rescued after being trapped 8½ hours.

May 14, 1961 -- A man walked into an inactive mine and stepped into a winze. He suffered a broken neck, broken right ankle, and internal injuries

November 10, 1962 -- Two airmen were exploring a mine when one fell 170 feet suffering serious injury. (*see SOSA list for details and news*)

August 6, 1967 -- A 19-year old boy was walking around at night and fell 40 feet into a shaft. He held on to a rock to avoid falling an additional 600 feet. One of the rescuers suffered from shock.

September 28, 1971 -- A 27-year old man went down a mine shaft to rescue a dog. He was injured by falling rock 30 feet below the surface.

May 19, 1974 -- A 17-year old Aurora youth was seriously injured when a motorcycle accident hurtled him 200 feet down the shaft of the Glory Hole Mine.

1975 --A BLM employee was injured in a room collapse (subsidence) in a uranium mine.

August 7, 1975 -- A man fell 70 feet down a mine shaft and suffered pulled muscles, a broken wrist, a broken shoulder blade and a gash on the head.

August 26, 1983 -- A 16-year old Denver boy was injured when he fell 84 feet down a mine shaft near Central City.

October 27, 1985 -- A 28-year old man drove his motorcycle into a 40-foot deep mine shaft just west of Central City in Gilpin County and suffered severe leg injuries.

June 19, 1986 -- A 17-year old Durango youth was seriously injured when he fell while exploring the Weaver mine, 18 miles north of his home. He was rescued after a frantic effort by 100 volunteers. (*see SOSA list for details and news*)

August 24, 1986 -- Three drunken men broke into the Alps Hill Mine in Gilpin County. One man fell a short distance, punctured a lung and was able to climb out. Another man, who had an estimated blood alcohol level of .3 fell 40 feet, suffered severe bruises, a collapsed lung and was rescued 9 hours later.

1987 or 1988 -- A Texas Gulf geologist broke a leg in the Chicago adit near Cripple Creek.

March 1988 -- A man fell 120 feet down a winze in the Poorman Mine in Boulder County.

May 1989 -- A 7-year old boy and his father were looking down the Cashier Mine Shaft in Gilpin County when the boy slipped and fell into a timber and snow bridge located approximately 35 feet from the surface. The father went for help and the child was rescued suffering minor bruise.

August 24, 1991 -- A man was severely injured when he fell approximately 60 feet into a stope at the Taylor Gulch West Limestone Mine in Fremont County.

June 1993 -- 17 year old scout fell into a small mine depression in Park County he was not hurt.

May 1994 -- A woman was injured while hiking in the Mt Garfield area in Garfield County. She was injured when she fell into some subsidence cracks related to an abandoned coal mine fire.

June 1995 -- A man drove his truck into a mine which opened up in the middle of the road in Gilpin County.

February 1996 -- A man lowered himself into an abandoned mine in El Paso County and had to be rescued. *(see SOSA list for details and news)*

July 19, 1998 -- A couple dozen rescue workers spent all night rescuing two Commerce City men who had rappelled into an abandoned mine and could not climb out. The men came prepared with ropes and harnesses to climb down into the mine with absolutely no provisions for how they were going to get out.

October 23, 2000 -- A 26 year old Lakewood man was rescued after becoming stranded about 180 feet down an abandoned mine shaft in Clear Creek County. *(see SOSA list for details and news)*