

## Abandoned Mine Fatalities

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

- September 15, 1955 --Two men entered an old mine by digging through the tunnel from above. The mine atmosphere contained bad air (no oxygen). Both men were found dead approximately 6,200 feet from the portal 3 days later.
- August 1, 1958 -- A 17-year old boy, who was exploring a mine, fell 120 feet to his death when the ladder gave way.
- February 12, 1961 --A 17-year old youth was shot by another target practicing youth who discharged his gun into the adit where the youth, father and friend were collecting ore samples.
- May 24, 1965 -- Two boys entered a mine. One fell 320 feet to his death.
- September 15, 1968 --A Fort Carson Soldier, who was exploring a mine, in the Cripple Creek area and was overcome by gases and fell 90 feet to his death. It was sealed by the state in 1987.
- April 5, 1970 --On an outing with friends, an individual fell to his death in a snow-covered shaft at the Glory Mine in Gilpin County
- October 1, 1977--A 45-year old Lakewood man was killed when he fell into the Glory Hole Mine near Central City in Gilpin County.
- April 27, 1986 --A 24-year old Colorado Springs man was killed after falling down a 900-foot mine shaft at the Mary McKinney Mine near Cripple Creek.
- December 7, 1986 --An 11-year old died when he fell into a mine shaft while skiing out of bounds on Aspen Mountain.
- June 19, 1987 --Two 21-year old men were test driving a new 4-wheel drive vehicle in Gilpin County. One of the men was in the jeep when the jeep went into the Empress Mine shaft, fell, and the jeep became lodged 34 feet down the shaft. The vehicle had to be removed in order to continue rescue efforts. The man's body was eventually found 350 feet below the surface.
- March 24, 1989 --A 2-year old boy slipped into an open mine shaft and fell 200 feet to this death. The shaft was located just behind his family home in Central City.
- August 1989 --A man vacationing in Colorado was exploring at the Skyline Clay Mine stope complex in the hogback just west of Canon City in Fremont County. While climbing inside the mine, an 800-pound rock pulled away from the wall and pressed against his chest. He died of suffocation.
- August 13, 1989--Three people aged 15, 16 and 17, entered the previously safeguarded Bookcliffs Mine in Mesa County and were in 300 feet from the entrance when they encountered a lethal concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> and died. The 1/2" x 2" lock box hasp on the 1/4 inch thick steel door had been vandalized a few weeks to a few months earlier.
- January 13, 1996 --A student from Mesa College in Grand Junction entered the Gearhart coal mine in the Bookcliffs area. The mine closure had been vandalized allowing entry. He died from lack of oxygen.
- September 1999 --Suffocation death of a 49-year old Texas man in a mine tunnel near Lake City. Rescuers discovered the body 600 feet inside the entrance of the Chicago mine near Henson Creek. A companion and a child exploring the mine with the man left the tunnel when they felt faint. Authorities said the man died from lack of oxygen.