

Famous April Mining Incidents

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April

April has produced **65 mine disasters** with 5 or more fatalities.

See more at <http://bit.ly/2ScoBCY> 🔍 👁

The **top 3 deadliest disasters** were:

Eccles No. 5/6 (WV) — 183 dead

Banner (AL) — 128 dead

Hastings (CO) — 121 dead

April Mine Disaster Calendar 📅

Be sure to visit our April calendar page. There you'll find scores of successful rescues and incidents of rescuer death that we've uncovered from news archives and accident reports. To date we've collected information on more than **1,350 rescues** and over **475 rescuer deaths** dating back to 1846. See more at

<http://bit.ly/3bf8YTV> 🔍 👁

April 3

On April 3rd we commemorate the anniversary of the Bright Hope mine explosion at Clover Hill, Virginia. 🏠

Clover Hill Coal Pits

Bright Hope Mine Explosion

Clover Hill, Chesterfield County, Virginia

April 3, 1867

No. Killed – 69

See more at <http://bit.ly/2CxRxeR> 🔍 👁

There were 69 persons in the pit at the time of the explosion, all of whom are supposed to have been instantly killed. At the time, this was the most serious mining disaster that had ever occurred in the United States, and but few anywhere had more victims.

April 3

Successful Rescue on April 3, 1963 🍺

Box Mine Cave-in, Hamilton, Alabama — Rescuers removed two brothers from a coal mine where they had been trapped for — **three days** — deep in a cave-in. Bobby Gene Johnson, 23, and Lewis Ray Johnson, 20, were unharmed by their ordeal. They were taken to a Winfield hospital for rest and observation. Officials said rescuers bypassed a rock and tunneled through coal to reach the trapped men. A rockslide pinned the brothers more than 2,000 feet in the Box mine. Officials said the men were removing rock deep inside the mine when the cave-in trapped them.

See more at <https://bit.ly/3ny5kfK> 🔍 👁

April 4

Clinchfield Coal Company

Moss No. 3 Portal A Mine Inundation

Duty, Dickenson County, Virginia

April 4, 1978

No. Killed - 5

See more at <http://bit.ly/2Czv4hl> 🔍 👁

Rescuer Deaths 🚒 and **Successful Rescue** 🍺

William Joe Arden, Willis Ison, and Richard L. Shelby died attempting to save fellow workmen from suffocation, April 4, 1978. Strickler Mullins, helped to save Charles L. Breeding in the same incident.

Arden, 25; Shelby, 56, Service Manager from National Mine Service; and Ison, 45, Mine Safety and Health Administration subdistrict manager, entered the tunnel to give aid but, before reaching any of the men, were overcome.

Messer's Arden, Shelby, Ison and Mullins were posthumously awarded the Carnegie Hero Award for their bravery. 🏆

April 5

On April 5th we commemorate the anniversary of the Upper Big Branch Mine explosion. At the time, this tragic accident was the deadliest coal mine disaster in the United States in 40 years. 🕊

Massey Energy Company Upper Big Branch Mine Explosion Montcoal, Raleigh County, West Virginia

April 5, 2010

No. Killed - 29

See more at <http://bit.ly/2FThGqq> 🔍 👁

10-Year Anniversary Audio – <https://bit.ly/34diKTt> 🎧

Video: <https://youtu.be/BKVY38GYK-0> 📺

Upper Big Branch by Holy Water and Whiskey

Listen: <http://bit.ly/2GIMy0U> 🎧

On April 5, 2010, at approximately 3:02 p.m., a massive coal dust explosion occurred at the Upper Big Branch Mine-South, killing 29 miners, and injuring two. Upper Big Branch was operated by Performance Coal Company, a former subsidiary of Massey Energy Company.

April 6

Successful Rescue on April 6, 1931 🍺

Tunnel Ridge Colliery Cave-in, Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania — After being entombed in a gangway at the Tunnel Ridge colliery for about — **eight hours** —, rescue crews found Charles Walaconis uninjured. Twenty feet of debris separated Walaconis from freedom. When the entombed man responded to tapping signals on a pipeline that ran through the debris, the rescue party worked faster in the hope of reaching the man before serious injury or death could occur. He was guided by instructions carried over the pipeline and was finally taken to his home without a scratch. See more at <https://bit.ly/3qf8aVw> 🔍 👁

April 7

In memory of the 37 miners that perished in the **7th deadliest Metal and Nonmetal mine disaster** in U. S. history in the 1869 KY-Yellow Jacket Gold Mine Fire in Gold Hill, Nevada. ✚

Yellow Jacket Mining
KY-Yellow Jacket Gold Mine Fire
Gold Hill, Storey County, Nevada

April 7, 1869

No. Killed – 37

See more at <http://bit.ly/2EKx74Q> 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue 🍺

James Dunlevy was the sole survivor of nine miners on the level where the fire started. He felt himself suffocating and he lay down on the floor of the level and put an overcoat over his head. All his eight companions on the same level were imprisoned by the falling rocks. Their bodies were never recovered. It was hours after Dunlevy had been rescued in the cage before he regained consciousness.

April 8

On April 8th we commemorate the anniversary of the **13th deadliest coal mine disaster** in the United States. 🕯️

Pratt Consolidated Coal Company Banner Mine Explosion Littleton, Jefferson County, Alabama

April 8, 1911

No. Killed - 128

See more at <http://bit.ly/2ELUU4h> 🔍👁️

This disaster was the greatest one in the history of coal mining in Alabama insofar as the loss of life was concerned. At least 128 men lost their lives, of which about 90 percent were Negro convicts.

The other men in the mine were white convicts, and free Negroes who were employed as shot firers and foremen. The machine runners and helpers and the foremen and assistants had not yet entered the mine for work when the explosion occurred, except for O. W. Spradling, an assistant foreman, and Lee Jones, the shotfirer, who were in the mine and were killed. They were found on the left haulway.

April 10

Successful Rescue on April 10, 1947 🍺

Schooley Mine Explosion, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania — The Schooley mine explosion killed nine anthracite diggers and injured nine others as they worked 350 feet underground. The explosion, so terrific that it splintered supporting timbers and crumpled mine chamber walls, came soon after the day work crew reported at the shaft of the Knox Coal company. Dust and smoke rose from the pithead, as rescue forces rushed into the operation near Wilkes-Barre. Two bodies were removed immediately. **Injured were speeded to nearby Pittston hospital where doctors said some had been burned, others overcome by fumes.** See more at <https://bit.ly/3fWLQ05> 🔍👁️ or <https://bit.ly/344uWK4> 🔍👁️

April 10

Successful Rescue on April 10, 1940 📄

Bootleg Anthracite Mine Powered Haulage Accident, Joliett, Pennsylvania — Paul Lengel, 34, was transported to the Pottsville Hospital suffering with internal injuries received in an accident in a bootleg coal hole at Joliett. Lengel was squeezed between the frame and a dump cart, and a section of props fell on him. He was rescued by fellow workers after an **undisclosed period** and removed to the hospital, where his condition was critical. See more at <https://bit.ly/3nTntoi> 🔍 👁

April 11

Death typically comes quickly for mine disaster victims, while the pain and suffering for family survivors endures for a lifetime. This disaster is an example of such hardship. †

**St. Lawrence Copper Mine Explosives Detonation
Butte, Silver Bow County, Montana**

April 11, 1896

No. Killed – 6

See more at <http://bit.ly/2UWYjaH> 🔍 👁

April 11

Successful Rescue on April 11, 1968 📄

Southwest Potash Mine Cave-in, Carlsbad, New Mexico — 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. See more at <http://bit.ly/2wiv9so> 🔍 👁

April 12

On April 12, 1971, seven Illinois miners were asphyxiated by Hydrogen Sulfide gas in the Barnett Complex Mine, an underground fluorspar-lead-zinc operation. †

**Ozark-Mahoning Company
Barnett Complex Mine Asphyxiations
Rosiclare, Pope County, Illinois**

April 12, 1971

No. Killed - 7

See more at <http://bit.ly/2EKAFUD> 🔍👁

Rescuer Deaths 🚒

Two brothers, **William and Philip Long**, entered an area of the mine and were subsequently overcome by Hydrogen Sulfide 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. In addition to the Long brothers, others who perished in this incident included: **Jerry Jenkins, 30; Orval Holbtook, 47; Gale Bates, 42; Randall Belford, 34; and James Lane, 42.**

April 12

Successful Rescue on April 12, 1896 🍺

Hope Mine Asphyxiation, Basin, Montana — A party of rescuers succeeded in descending to the 100-foot level of the Hope mine at Basin, Montana. The body of Albert Boulware, who went down the day before and was overcome with gas and unable to climb the ladder to the top and was left for dead. **He was still alive**, although he had been in the mine over **fourteen hours**. See more at <https://bit.ly/3s00KrB> 🔍👁

April 15

Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, established April 15, 1904

The historical marker reads:

"Established April 15, 1904, by Andrew Carnegie. The Pittsburgh-based foundation awards the Carnegie Medal in the U.S. and Canada to persons who risk their lives to save others. Heroic acts that followed the January 25, 1904, explosion in the nearby Harwick Mine inspired Carnegie, who also founded ten similar funds in Europe. Many of the explosion's 181 victims are buried in St. Mark's Cemetery just south of here."

Marker location:

300 Pittsburgh Street

Springdale, Pennsylvania

LNG: -79.79061, LAT: 40.54106

<https://goo.gl/maps/zrWRD3dNpJ4WeZK87>

April 15

Considering the year, this disaster should not have happened. 🕒 📅

Mid-Continent Resources, Inc. Dutch Creek No. 1 Mine Explosion Redstone, Pitkin County, Colorado

April 15, 1981

No. Killed - 15

See more at <http://bit.ly/2GUeXBb> 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue 🍺

At approximately 4:08 p.m., April 15, 1981, a methane and coal dust explosion occurred in the 102-longwall development section of Dutch Creek No. 1 Mine located near Redstone, Colorado. Fifteen miners died as a result. Nine of the victims were working in the 102 section and six were working in the Slope section. 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.

April 15

Successful Rescue on April 15, 1941 🍺

Bootleg Anthracite Mine Asphyxiation, Branchdale, Pennsylvania — Albert Gudinas, 26, was rescued alive after an **undisclosed period** from a gas-filled coal hole at Branchdale by the heroic effort of his brother, Joseph. The brothers were engaged in pumping water from their slope when Albert entered the mine to replenish the supply of gasoline in the engine operating the pump. When the brother failed to reappear, Joseph entered the mine to find him unconscious, victim of carbon monoxide. Summoning other miners, it was with difficulty they made their way into the gas-filled operation and conveyed the unconscious Albert Gudinas to the surface and eventually to the Pottsville Hospital. Surgeons at the hospital administered oxygen and stimulation and after a time revived Gudinas. See more at <https://bit.ly/3lBf1d9> 🔍 👁

April 16

Successful Rescue on April 16, 1927 🍺

Wise Mine Inundation, Henryetta, Oklahoma — Nineteen miners were rescued after an **undisclosed period** from the flooded Wise mine near Henryetta, Oklahoma. Two mules had also been trapped with the men. Knowing what it meant to be imprisoned underground, the rescued miners volunteered to work without pay to man the pumps and free the mules. See more at <http://bit.ly/3lPucwa> 🔍👁

April 16

Successful Rescue on April 16, 1884 🍺

Abandoned Mine Fall of Person Rescue, Leadville, Colorado — Richard Swan, a mining speculator of Leadville, Colorado, was rescued from a horrible fate, being found in the bottom of a deserted mine shaft, into which he had fallen — **six days** — before, and which had been his living tomb. His rescue was by the merest accident. James Barry and Charles A. Dean, two miners, while on their way to work heard the groans of someone in distress. Ropes and mining timbers were procured, and Barry was let down the shaft.

On reaching the bottom and striking a match he found a man lying face downward just in the entrance of a drift leading from the shaft. The man was unconscious, and his face unmistakably depicted the agonies of death by starvation. The unfortunate man was raised to the surface and carried to the city, where, after restoratives had been applied, he recovered consciousness. From the fall he suffered a sprained ankle and a bruised arm but was not otherwise hurt. See more on

<http://bit.ly/3p2xwWH> 🔍👁

April 16

Successful Rescue on April 16, 1929 🍺

Frisco Mine Cave-in, Wallace, Idaho — Oscar Johnson and John Amonson were rescued — **48 hours** — after a cave-in occurred at the Frisco mine at Wallace, Idaho. The cook of the Frisco mine was the chief hero of the rescue party. At 2-hour intervals, food was carried up the mountainside including great bowls of savory smelling soup and warm milk which were passed through a pipe to the trapped miners. See more at <https://bit.ly/3Al4F50> 🔍👁

April 17

Successful Rescue on April 17, 1908 🍺

Hammond Mines Cave-in, Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania — Richard Brown rescued alive after being entombed in Hammond Mines at Mahanoy City for more than **thirty-six hours**. Brown was unhurt and except for his enforced abstinence from eating, which had weakened him, he was in good condition. See more at <https://bit.ly/3ywZzSR> 🔍 👁

April 17

Successful Rescue on April 17, 1984 🍺

Nemacolin Mine Roof Fall, Nemacolin, Pennsylvania — Four miners that were trapped underground when a roof collapsed at the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation's Nemacolin Mine were rescued by emergency workers. Three of the four men were rescued within **twenty minutes** of the accident while the fourth miner was trapped for nearly **two hours**. Company officials said none of the four sustained serious injuries. The four miners were identified as section foreman Joe Hardy, roof bolters J. H. Whistman and Frank Martin, and miner operator Bob Shinsky. See more at <https://bit.ly/3FeB9TD> 🔍 👁

April 18

Successful Rescue on April 18, 1985 🍺

Trapped for — **37 hours** — following a roof fall accident, Curtis Sanders, age 32, was rescued and walked out of the **Powderhorn Coal Company's Roadside mine in DeBeque Canyon, Colorado**. Sanders had been hunched over in nearly waist-deep water in the cab of a large mining machine during his period of entrapment. He was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, where nurses in the emergency room said he was in good condition. See more at <http://bit.ly/2LBr47i> 🔍 👁

April 18

Successful Rescue on April 18, 1940 🍺

Mattie Gold Mine Cave-in, Idaho Springs, Colorado — Imprisoned — **13 hours** — by a cave-in at the Mattie Gold Mine, Jack Ward, 25, was rescued uninjured. Ward was made a prisoner in a six-foot-square hole when a 20-foot wall of rock and dirt crashed down from the tunnel's ceiling while he and two others were replacing old timbering yesterday. He was trapped about 600 feet from the entrance of the mine.

When the cave-in occurred, Ward jumped one way and his fellow workers, Albert Harrison, and Oscar Hyman, jumped the other. They escaped imprisonment and gave the alarm. A rescue crew of 20 men worked in relays, three at a time, to reach Ward in the narrow tunnel. See more at <https://bit.ly/3lEXl0i> 🔍 👁

April 19

Successful Rescue on April 19, 1978 📅

Jersey Miniere Zinc Mine Equipment Fire, Gordonsville, Tennessee — Miners trapped underground by a fire in a zinc mine shaft were rescued after the flames were brought under control. The miners were trapped for — **several hours** — by the fire, which occurred some 600 feet down the mine shaft. A company official said there were no injuries. The mine manager for Jersey Miniere Zinc Company said the fire was believed to have started when some hydraulic oil spilled from a piece of loading equipment in the mine shaft, called a load-haul dump unit. The accident occurred at about 2:30 p.m., trapping miners farther down the shaft. It was estimated about 20 men were involved. The men were never in any danger, but they were unable to bypass the fire and get out of the shaft and into refuge chambers along the mine shaft, which are equipped with air, water and first aid supplies. See more at <https://bit.ly/3FF7sbM> 🔍 👁

April 19

Successful Rescue on April 19, 1903 📅

Farrel Shaft No. 2 Fire, Butte, Montana — Had it not been for the heroism of Peter Keri, two men working in a crosscut in Farrel Shaft No. 2, of the Pittsburgh & Montana Mining Company, might have suffered death as a result of the fire which occurred at the mine. How the fire started was a mystery. Keri came to the surface, and as soon as he discovered the true condition of affairs, ordered the engineer to lower him into the mine again, going to what at the time appeared to be certain death. The engineer demurred and told Keri he was going to his death, but Keri insisted, and the engineer began letting him down.

One hundred feet from the bottom of the shaft, the engineer driven from his post by the flames, put on the brakes and stopped the cage. Keri, below ground, realized what had happened, but still maintained his wonderful self-possession. Setting the dogs on the cage, the safety devices, he took the extra precaution of lashing the cage as fast as possible to the side of the shaft.

He knew the cable would be burned through and feared the cage might fall. Keri crawled through into the other compartment and after making the trip in safety started into the crosscut after his two companions, Nick Frantia, and Ike Peterson. They started back at the utmost speed and began the long and tedious journey up the ladder in the pump shaft.

At the best this was a terrible task for even a strong man, but with death both above and below them the three men climbed like monkeys toward the surface. At one of the lower levels, the three were met by a rescue party. It was stated by miners that it was one of the bravest deeds ever performed in the history of the many in the list of mining rescues. See more at <https://bit.ly/3qDq7jQ> 🔍👁

April 20

Successful Rescue on April 20, 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. See more at <http://bit.ly/2UUfHgi> 🔍👁

April 21

Successful Rescue on April 21, 1907 🍺🐎

Good Enough Stope Fall of Horse, Tombstone, Arizona — A remarkable cave-in occurred near the corner of Fifth and Toughnut streets in Tombstone at 1:00 p.m. on April 21, 1907. A horse and wagon belonging to the Tombstone Improvement Company were suddenly precipitated some 75 feet below street level. The driver had climbed down to see why his horse had stumbled only to find himself standing on the edge of a gaping aperture with his horse and wagon far below.

Although considerably bruised, the horse was found to have apparently suffered no serious injury. The animal was found pressed beneath the wagon and some timbers and was rescued before the rapidly descending earth smothered him. The wagon was badly wrecked, both front wheels being broken.

By means of ropes the vehicle was pulled out through the opening on the surface, while the horse was taken through the drifts of the old workings and brought to the surface near the old Visna shaft, some distance from where he went under. See more at <https://bit.ly/386Ww8K> 🔍👁

April 21

Successful Rescue on April 21, 1926 🍺

Grizzly Mine Cave-in, Oroville, California — Thomas B. McDermott was rescued after being entombed for — **72 hours** — in the Grizzly mine near Oroville, California. He was the lone survivor of the cave-in. Two others, Billy Cope and Horse McBride, did not last to be rescued. See more at <https://bit.ly/2VB6g7I> 🔍 👁

April 22

Commemorating the loss of 45 miners that were killed at Grundy, Virginia. ✚

**Red Jacket Coal Company
Keen Mountain Mine Explosion
Grundy, Buchanan County, Virginia**

April 22, 1938

No. Killed – 45

See more at <http://bit.ly/34Mitpg> 🔍 👁

Members of mine rescue squads worked in 30-minute relays in the furnace-like atmosphere until they had explored every avenue of the big mine. Two members were overcome by bad air which had to be blown out before the final group of bodies could be removed. For many hours, the crews worked grimly, without hope of finding life among the victims trapped by the blast but unwilling to cease their efforts until every miner had been accounted for.

April 23

On April 23rd we commemorate the anniversary of the **29th deadliest coal mine disaster** in the United States. ✚


**Pittsburgh Coal Company
Cincinnati Mine Explosion
Courtney, Washington County, Pennsylvania**

April 23, 1913

No. Killed - 97

See more at <http://bit.ly/2EbvVGK> 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue 🍺

Sixty-seven miners escaped from the Cincinnati Mine following the explosion that claimed 97 lives on April 23, 1913, including one apparatus wearing rescuer. Two miners were rescued after **60 hours**. 

Rescuer Death


On April 23, 1913, **William McColligan**, a member of a rescue crew of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, died while making an exploration trip ahead of fresh air after an explosion in the Cincinnati mine. See archived news at <http://bit.ly/2Eax80Q>



For more information regarding fatalities related to self-contained breathing apparatus, visit <https://bit.ly/3ERlWrg> 

April 23


Successful Rescue on April 23, 1986 

One miner was killed, and another miner was trapped for more than — **2 hours** — by a roof fall in the **No. 2 mine of the Paul and Robert Lewis Coal Company in Harlan County, Kentucky**. The trapped worker, Terry Rigney, was rescued unharmed. The body of the other miner, Paul Lewis, was recovered after Rigney was freed. See more at <https://bit.ly/3eJDbel> 

April 23

Successful Rescue on April 23, 1935 

U. S. Gold Mine Cave-in, Butte, Montana — Trapped — **nine hours** — beneath 25 feet of rock in the U. S. mine near Butte, Harvey Konen, 45, had suffered only a few scratches and bruised when rescued by a crew of 20 men. Konen descended the 60-foot shaft of the gold mine shortly before 9:30 a.m. After hearing dangerous rumblings above him, he was ascending a ladder when the timbered shaft crashed in ahead of an avalanche of rock. Workers at the shaft rushed to Butte and recruited veteran miners who were taken to the property where an opening was made in the caved-in shaft and Konen was brought to the surface. See more at

<https://bit.ly/3jLcQkP> 

April 24

Commemorating the anniversary of the Ott No. 20 mine disaster and the 23 lives lost at Elk Garden, West Virginia. 🏠

Davis Coal and Coke Company Ott No. 20 Mine Explosion Elk Garden, Mineral County, West Virginia

April 24, 1911

No. Killed - 23

See more at <http://bit.ly/2wrnqZ3> 🔍 👁

April 25

In remembrance of the 22 miners that died in the 1963 Compass No. 2 mine explosion in Dola, West Virginia. 🏠

Clinchfield Coal Company Compass No. 2 Mine Explosion Dola, Harrison County, West Virginia

April 25, 1963

No. Killed – 22

See more at <http://bit.ly/2GUbmE4> 🔍 👁

West Virginia Mines Director Leonard Timms motored to the scene from his headquarters in the state capital at Charleston. Upon arriving he gave this picture:

"The missing men were believed working in two separate groups, a mile to a mile and a half from the main shaft. Thirteen in one group were mining by conventional methods. Seven men in the second group were operating a continuous mining machine. Each group had a foreman. The two entry ways separated by a wall of coal."

April 26

Successful Rescue on April 26, 1986 📁 🍕

Abandoned Quicksilver Mine Rescue, Guerneville, California — Rescue crews pulled a tired and thankful teenager from a 150-foot abandoned mercury mineshaft where the luckless explorer was **trapped for more than six hours**. Rick Gloege,

18, of Sebastopol was hoisted with rope and harness by firefighters and the Sonoma County sheriffs rescue and search team from a carved room 150-feet down the mercury mineshaft where he had been stuck. The youth, who described himself as a professional tree climber now working at a pizza restaurant, said he was stranded in the shaft at the old Quicksilver Mine when he was unable to find the footing and strength needed to pull himself 30 feet to a ledge. Neither Gloege nor his 19-year-old friend Jeff Brown, who didn't enter the mineshaft, were injured in the incident. Gloege spent about three hours trying to pull himself out of the mineshaft Saturday afternoon before Brown drove into town for help at the Guerneville firehouse. See more at <https://bit.ly/3GH310J> 🔍 👁

April 27

On April 27 we commemorate the anniversary of the **16th deadliest coal mine disaster** in the United States. ☠

Victor-American Fuel Company Hastings Mine Explosion Hastings, Las Animas County, Colorado

April 27, 1917

No. Killed – 121

See more at <http://bit.ly/2E9Ykgo> 🔍 👁

Two firebosses made their rounds preparatory for the day shift on that morning and made written reports that the mine was clear of gas. A trip of cars on the rope going in after 9 o'clock had reached a point 1,300 feet in by the mouth when the explosion occurred. The trip rider neither heard nor felt anything unusual, but the explosion caused the signal wires to cross and rang the bell to stop the trip. He then saw smoke coming up the slope and ran out to give the alarm of fire. He was the only man in the mine who escaped.

April 28

Successful Rescue on April 28, 1879 🍺

Sugar Notch No. 10 Colliery Cave-in, Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania — Seven miners were rescued after being trapped by a cave-in for — **5 days and 15 hours** — in the Sugar Notch No. 10 Colliery near Wilkesbarre. The men sustained themselves on mine water and the cooked flesh of a mule they killed that was trapped with them. They cooked the meat in the lids of their cans held over three lamps. The

men were in good shape when they reached the surface and except for 2 that lived 2 miles away, the other five men walked to their homes. The mine was operated by the Lehigh & Wilkesbarre Coal Company. See more at <http://bit.ly/35ATHLd> 🔍 👁

April 28

On April 28 we commemorate the anniversary of the **8th deadliest coal mine disaster** in the United States. †

New River Collieries Company Eccles Nos. 5 and 6 Mine Explosions Eccles, Raleigh County, West Virginia

April 28, 1914

No. Killed - 183

See more at <http://bit.ly/2EaHYnG> 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue 🍺

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 were more successful in bringing forty more men to the surface. Two of the men, P. M. Ellison, and N. Jones, were seriously injured.

Superintendent 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.

April 28

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Benwood Mine Explosion

On April 28 we commemorate the anniversary of the **18th deadliest coal mine disaster** in the United States. †

Wheeling Steel Corporation Benwood Mine Explosion Benwood, Marshall County, West Virginia

April 28, 1924

No. Killed - 119

See more at <http://bit.ly/2Ec3hVU> 🔍 👁

Audio: <https://bit.ly/3vRcCOP> 🎧

At 7:10 a.m. as the day-shift men reached their working places an explosion killed all the 119 men in the mine. The 2 firebosses had reported the mine free of gas and had returned with the men. A miner found a fall of 8 feet of roof 22 feet from the room face. Thinking that the fall had been examined by the fireboss, he went over it and ignited gas.

April 28

Rescuer Deaths on April 28, 1917 🧑‍🚒

Mountain King Mine Asphyxiation, 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. See more at <http://bit.ly/3bHp9th> 🔍 👁

April 28

Successful Rescue on April 28, 1918 🧑‍🚒

Winchester Magnesite Mine Cave-in, San Jacinto, California — After being imprisoned in the Winchester magnesite mine for — **fourteen hours** — **because of an earthquake**, Foreman Edward Sexton and Edward Cole, a miner, were rescued. 20 men who had labored frantically to release them. Shut in an airtight, pitchy dark hole, six feet long and four feet high, Sexton and Cole breathed thru a 10-foot pipe that was forced down thru the imprisoning rock and dirt. With lips pressed tight about the ends of the pipe, the two prisoners sucked air from the outer world. That the men were still alive was proved by faint sounds of tapping on the pipe. When released Cole and Sexton were weak from lack of food and anxiety, but it was believed they would be none the worse for their ordeal. See more at <https://bit.ly/3fBz0o6>. 🔍 👁

April 30

On April 30 we commemorate the anniversary of the **30th deadliest coal mine disaster** in the United States. 🏠

New England Fuel and Transportation Federal No. 3 Mine Explosion Everettville, Monongalia County, West Virginia

April 30, 1927

No. Killed - 97

See more at <http://bit.ly/2EeTpe5> 🔍 👁

A gas and dust explosion at 3:20 p.m. killed 6 men in the tibble and 91 in the mine; 86 of those underground met instant death, 2 traveled about 500 feet before they were overcome by afterdamp, and 3 attempted to barricade themselves in a pumproom but were overcome by afterdamp. Messages left by 1 of the 3 men showed that they lived 3 hours or more. 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. Five men in the tibble were seriously injured.

April 30

Successful Rescue on April 30, 1910 🏠

Packer Mine No. 5 Cave-in, Girardville, Pennsylvania — After being imprisoned for — **18 hours** — by a fall of coal at the Packer No. 5 mine of the Lehigh Valley colliery, near Girardville, Robert Metukas was rescued uninjured, but died an hour later from an excess of joy on being taken from the tomb. See more at <https://bit.ly/3isr1eO> 🔍 👁

April 30

Successful Rescue on April 30, 1936 🏠


Clyde Westcott Mine Fall of Person, Mt. Sterling, Ohio — Raymond Blackstone, 28, was injured when the coal car which he occupied fell down a 35-foot shaft of the Clyde Westcott mine, three miles south of Mt. Sterling. He was reported in critical condition in Bethesda hospital. Blackstone suffered a fractured skull and a broken jaw. Portions of wood driven into his brain and skull by force of the fall were

removed yesterday by the attending physician. He was found unconscious at the foot of the shaft by Robert Lane, a pony-driver in the mine. After an **undisclosed period**, fellow workmen assisted in bringing him to the surface where first aid was given. He was taken to the hospital in the Bateman ambulance. The injured man had been employed at the mine for three years. See more at <https://bit.ly/3AeKPZp>



April 30

Successful Rescue on April 30, 1907  

Berwind-White Mine No. 38 Inundation, Foustwell, Pennsylvania — 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**. It was over an hour before either man was heard from and then Ream came swimming back through the heading, bringing the first news from the imprisoned seven. 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. See more at <http://bit.ly/2qzj2AG>  or <http://bit.ly/2qAYxnf> 