

# Famous June Mining Incidents

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## June 1

June has produced **42 mine disasters** with 5 or more fatalities.

See more at <http://bit.ly/2SeKa5A> 🔍 👁

The **top 3 deadliest disasters** were:

Hanna No. 1 (WY) — 169 dead

Granite Mountain (MT) — 163 dead


Baltimore Tunnel No. 2 (PA) — 92 dead

## June Mine Disaster Calendar 📅

Be sure to visit our June 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. See more at <http://bit.ly/2UvpCso> 🔍 👁

To date we've collected information on more than **1,350 rescues** and over **475 rescuer deaths** dating back to 1846.

## June 1

Honoring the bravery of three miners that died while attempting to save their fellow crew members in the Dora No. 2 mine. 

### **Doverspike Brothers Coal Company**

#### **Dora No. 2 Mine Asphyxiation**

#### **Dora, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania**

June 1, 1966

No. Killed — 5

See more at <http://bit.ly/2YHmXfd>  

### **Rescuer Deaths**

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**.

## June 1

### **Successful Rescue** on June 1, 1934

**Abandoned Diamond Colliery Rescue, Scranton, Pennsylvania** — The wanderings of two North Scranton boys in the darkness of the abandoned Diamond Colliery of the Glen Alden Coal Company, ended after — **75 hours** — of torturous travel through pockets of blackdamp and perilous cave squeeze areas. Their underground journey was terminated in a **thrilling rescue by Fuhrman Ballus**, who on his second attempt in two days to locate the boys, found them without lights, huddled against the gob.

The youths, **Walter Gilasavage, 13**, and **John Stasko, Jr.**, were sadly the worse for their experience when brought to the surface. Both boys were exceedingly nervous and exhausted almost to the point of emaciation. The youngsters each lost nine or ten pounds in the adventure and had been without food for three days. The only water available was the subterranean drippings of sulphur water.

Gilasavage was taken to the state hospital and was examined. His physical condition was reported as good considering shock and his long vacation from the dinner table.

Stasko was treated by a physician and was removed to his home. Both boys had bruises on the leg from tearing along the road and vaulting over fall of roof. The boys were so weakened as to be scarcely able to follow Ballus over the gangway as he piloted them to the surface. See more at <https://bit.ly/2RldRpf> 🔍 👁

## June 1

Honoring the memory of the lives lost in the premature blast of explosives at the Union Limestone Quarry at Devil's Slide, Utah 🏠

### **Union Portland Cement**

### **Union Limestone Quarry Explosives Detonation**

### **Devils Slide, Morgan County, Utah**

June 1, 1910

No. Killed – 25

See more at <http://bit.ly/2P9SAKe> 🔍 👁

## June 2

**Rescuer Death** on June 2, 1970 🚒

**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.

### **Volcano Canyon Mining Company**

### **Hazard Gold Mine Asphyxiation**

### **Foresthill, Placer County, California**

June 20, 1970

See more at <http://bit.ly/2sZN7hL> 🔍 👁

## June 2

Honoring the memory of ten miners that were killed in the Butler Slope explosion at Pittston, Pennsylvania in 1938. 🏠

### **Volpe Mining Company**

### **Butler Slope Explosion**

### **Pittston, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania**

June 2, 1938

No. Killed — 10

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

### **Successful Rescue** 🍺

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.

## **June 2**

### **Successful Rescue** on June 2, 1952 🍺

**Penokee Iron Ore Mine Cave-in, Ironwood, Michigan** — Three of five miners were rescued after being trapped for — **24 hours** — by a cave-in at the Penokee Iron Ore Mine 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 5<sup>th</sup> miner, Serafim Zackarzewski, was not known, although mine officials feared he would have been crushed to death in the fall of rock. See more at <https://bit.ly/3J8GEW3> 🔍 👁

## **June 3**

### **Successful Rescue** on June 3, 1985 🍺

**Abandoned Lead Mine Rescue, Thida, Arkansas** — Volunteers digging by hand rescued two young brothers, their teen-age cousin, and a dog from an abandoned lead mine, **more than 24 hours** after they had become trapped while searching for gold. The trio — ages 9, 11 and 19 — were pulled out of a small pocket about 250

feet inside the Civil War-era mine. They were cold and wet, but otherwise appeared uninjured. See more at <https://bit.ly/3n5J8t7> 🔍 👁

## June 5

On June 5<sup>th</sup> we commemorate the anniversary of the Baltimore Tunnel No. 2 mine disaster that occurred at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. 🏠

### **Delaware and Hudson Coal Company Baltimore Tunnel No. 2 Explosives Detonation Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania**

June 5, 1919

No. Killed – 92

See more at <http://bit.ly/2FD3pOI> 🔍 👁

About 6:45 a.m. on Thursday morning, June 5, 1919, ninety-two men lost their lives in the Baltimore Tunnel No. 2. mine due to an explosion of black powder. Forty-four were injured and 7 escaped uninjured. The detonation occurred only a short distance inside the mouth of Tunnel No. 2.

## June 6

**Successful Rescue** on June 6, 1967 🍺

**Morton Salt Company Mine Entrapment, Grand Saline, Texas** – Sixteen miners emerged unharmed after — **9 hours** — trapped 700 feet underground with a heavy drill suspended above them. A 6-foot-square, 10-foot-high drill was being lowered into a Morton Salt Company mine when it tilted and wedged itself across the elevator shaft. Then, during the efforts to right the drill, the cable attached to it snapped.

As the miners took cover, the drill crunched through one supporting crossbar and then stopped, dangling 610 feet above the mine floor. For the next eight hours, the miners left their work area and clustered in protected areas within calling distance of the mine Superintendent Ray Rucker, near the elevator shaft.

Above the trapped miners, three repairmen cut holes in the floor of the elevator and lowered it to just above the jammed drill, then labored to secure it to the elevator. The men below watched as the drill was lowered cautiously down the elevator.

Rucker said the men stayed cheerful. "They knew the danger involved that the equipment might fall and tear out the elevator shaft, but after the mechanism was once tied back to the elevator, we all relaxed." See more at <https://bit.ly/2SHCNrM>



## June 5

**Successful Rescue** on June 5, 1923 🍺

**New Mine Cave-in, Bicknell, Knox County, Indiana** — Three miners were rescued — **80 hours** — after a cave-in occurred at the New Mine at Bicknell, Indiana. The 3 men were identified as **Jim Bertillo, Joe Bernardi, and Frank Maberto**. The men were near the shaft when the hoist rope broke and the cage, full of coal, went crashing to the bottom, causing the cave-in. More than 2,500 people waited at the shaft for their rescue. See more at <https://bit.ly/3wYm1Jc>



## June 7

Honoring the memory of the 8 miners killed in the Rocky Fork mine fire in Red Lodge, Montana. 🏠

**Northwestern Improvement  
Rocky Fork Mine Fire  
Red Lodge, Carbon County, Montana**

June 7, 1906

No. Killed — 8


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

**Rescuer Deaths** 🧯

To suppress a fire which occurred in the Red Lodge mine, 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.

## June 8

On June 8<sup>th</sup> we commemorate the anniversary of **the deadliest Metal and Nonmetal mine disaster** in U. S. history. 

*North Butte Mining Company  
Granite Mountain Copper Mine Fire  
a.k.a. Speculator Mine  
Butte, Silver Bow County, Montana*

June 8, 1917

No. Killed – 163



See more at <http://bit.ly/2FzTzNU>  

### Successful Rescue


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.

## June 8

### Successful Rescue on June 8, 1949

**Spruce Mine Landslide, Eveleth, Minnesota** — Two miners were rescued after being trapped — **more than ten hours** — by an earth slide in the Spruce mine at Eveleth, Minnesota. Sakri Makinen and Ed Kinszater were both brought up from the 200-foot level unhurt. See more at <https://bit.ly/3K8Ki0G>  

## June 10

In memory of the loss of so many that died while attempting to rescue their fellow miners in this bituminous Pennsylvania coal mine. 

**Pittsburg Coal and Coke Company**

## Port Royal No. 2 Mine Explosion and Fire

### Port Royal, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

June 10, 1901

No. Killed – 19

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

### Rescuer Deaths 🧑‍🚒

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.

## June 10

### Successful Rescue on June 10, 1915 🍺

Following a 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 were found dead on the fourteenth day following the accident. See more at <http://bit.ly/2Pzlr9S> 🔍 👁

## June 11

### Successful Rescue on June 11, 1932 🍺

**Silver King Western Mine Cave-in, Park City, Utah** — Rescuers toiled — **30 hours** — to free six Silver King Western miners, after having furnished the imprisoned miners fresh air, food, candles, and electric heating elements. The six miners caught behind a cave-in in a drift were released, none the worse for their experience. Their greatest discomfort was suffered from the water until it was drained. The water rose to a depth of four feet and the six men took turns in sitting on the one ore car in the drift which could accommodate only three men at a time,



forcing three to stand in the water. The six rescued men— **Shift Boss William O'Neill, Gilbert Carter, Clair Smith, Clark Bennet, George Potter and Eulogle Ysargrill** — declared themselves in good condition. They were sent to their homes. See more at <https://bit.ly/3ridzMb> 🔍👁

## June 12

**Successful Rescue** on June 12, 1933 🍺

Three Kulpmont, Pennsylvania miners were rescued from a cave-in that occurred in the **Colonial Colliery at Marion Heights, Pennsylvania** under circumstances that can only be described as extremely odd. Apparently, according to news reports, **the trapped miners spent most of the day at work unaware that they were indeed trapped**. Other mine workers discovered the cave-in and spent the day digging their way to the three trapped miners. The trapped miners were only apprised of their narrow escape from death when the rescue party finally reached them. They were never aware of being trapped and were uninjured from their experience. See more at <https://bit.ly/3ftNog6> 🔍👁

## June 13

**Successful Rescue** on June 13, 1925 🍺

**Baltic Mine Cave-in, Grass Valley, California** — Robert Hill was rescued after being imprisoned for — **57 hours** — in the black hole of the Baltic mine. Had he been a few feet closer to the mouth of the tunnel, he would have been crushed in the cave-in which imprisoned him. For 24 hours he did not hear a sound and had no means of knowing whether rescue work was under way. He felt confident, however, that he would be rescued. After his rescue, Hill was in good physical condition, but was pale and worn from his experience. It occurred on the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month, but it wasn't a Friday. 🐱

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

## June 14

**Successful Rescue** on June 14, 1942 🍺

**Unnamed Renton Mine Cave-in, Renton, Washington** — Two miners were rescued from a coal mine gallery 350 feet underground where they had been trapped for — **56 hours** — by a cave-in. Hungry, but evidently unhurt, the miners, Archie Skiver, 40, and Robert Stonack, 20, were freed through a tunnel dug around the slide. They came through the tunnel unassisted but were taken to a hospital for observation. The only food they had was what rescue workers had been able to

send down a 60-foot two-inch pipe driven to a point near the men. See more at <https://bit.ly/3t5PU5M> 🔍 👁

## June 15

**Successful Rescue** on June 15, 1952 🍺 🏃 ⚙️

**Bull Gulch Lead and Zinc Mine Cave-in, Jefferson City, Montana** — An eight-year-old boy's yell and 150-yard sprint for help saved two miners from possible death and made his father "the proudest man in Montana." A cave-in at the Bull Gulch lead and zinc mine completely covered Robert Steinbacher, 34, on this Father's Day.

Mine owner Henry Madison, about 70, was held fast by rocks, gravel and dirt that stopped cascading when the slide reached his chin. Young Charles O'Reilly of Helena was the only other witness to the near tragedy. He yelled to his father, Henry, who was prospecting about 100 yards above the mine, pointed to cave-in and raced to the nearest telephone, which was at the Steinbacher's home, about 450 feet from the mine. Henry O'Reilly ran to the mine with a pick and shovel and seeing Madison able to breathe began digging where he thought Steinbacher was buried.

In about 10 minutes he had freed Steinbacher's head enough so that he could breathe more easily. O'Reilly's son, meanwhile, urged Mrs. Steinbacher to call an ambulance and round up some volunteers. In another 20 minutes the men were free and on stretchers. Steinbacher and Madison apparently suffered only shock and bruises. See more at <https://bit.ly/3B5kG0o> 🔍 👁

## June 16

News describing the anguish and misery following this disaster is extremely moving.

**Dunbar Furnace Company  
Hill Farm Mine Fire  
Dunbar, Fayette County, Pennsylvania**

June 16, 1890

No. Killed – 31

See more at <http://bit.ly/2J2snMB> 🔍 👁

Thousands of people gathered at the mouth of the mines this morning. Among them were the parents, wives, children and sweethearts of the unfortunates, and a strong guard of police was necessary to prevent many of them, mad with anguish, from rushing into the deadly hole.

Wives, widowed by the calamity, stood about scantily clad and sore-footed, lulling to sleep their babes in arms. Mothers wrung their hands and cried aloud for their boys, while children from 8 to 15 years of age hurried about looking into the black faces of the escaped miners in the hope of finding their fathers or brothers.

Their suffering was pitiable, and while the authorities at the company were exerting all their energies to recover the bodies, the total absence of information regarding the fate of the missing men made their distress more severe, and moans and groans went up unconsciously from many of the pinched lids in the unhappy crowd.

## June 17

**Successful Rescue** on June 17, 1947 🍺

**Independent Anthracite Mine Cave-in, Pottsville, Pennsylvania** — George Sleva, 26, was rescued after being entombed — **14 hours** — by a rock fall in a small independent coal mine. Sleva was taken to the Pottsville Hospital, where he was taken and treated for shock and minor bruises. His condition was described as good. See more at <https://bit.ly/3rhyJvL> 🔍 👁

## June 18

**Successful Rescue** on June 18, 1954 🍺

**Bootleg Anthracite Mine Cave-in, Raven Run, Pennsylvania** — Two entombed miners were rescued after being trapped for — **more than 15 hours** — in a cave-in at an independent Anthracite mine at Raven Run. The plight of the two men was not discovered until Friday night, when the 16-year-old son of one of the victims went to the mine to learn why his father did not return home. The youth climbed down the slope of the mine and discovered the walls had collapsed. He returned to the surface and spread the alarm. Both men were taken to Locust Mountain Hospital in Shenandoah and treated for shock and exposure. See more at <https://bit.ly/3GujrtP> 🔍 👁

## June 20

**Successful Rescue** on June 20, 2011 🍺

**Jellico No. 1 Mine Inundation, Middlesboro, Kentucky** — Three mine maintenance workers were set free after being trapped for — **14 hours** — in the flooded Jellico No. 1 mine of the Bell County Coal Company, a subsidiary of the James River Coal Company in Middlesboro, Kentucky. The miners became trapped when a collapse near the mine entrance sent water from a swollen drainage ditch gushing into the mine. None of the miners were injured. The three miners were **Pernell Witherspoon, Doug Warren, and Russell Asher**. See more at <https://bit.ly/3dDINa4> 🔍 👁

## June 20

**Successful Rescue** on June 20, 1972 🏆

**Independent Anthracite Mine Cave-in, Hegins, Pennsylvania** — A 34-year-old Hegins miner, James Smith, was killed Tuesday when buried under a mass of coal some 11,000 feet below ground at a Good Spring area deep mine. A second miner, Kermit E. Binkley, was rescued after a — **nine-hour** — digging operation. Smith's body was recovered about an hour later. Binkley was listed in satisfactory condition at Pottsville's Good Samaritan Hospital. James Laird, inspector for the U.S. Bureau of Mines, said the two miners were found in the battery of the mine, which is a retaining wall used with a chute to control the flow of coal. Mine inspectors believe the chute was empty and the two miners had gone inside when the coal stopped flowing. Laird said coal flowed in on the pair while they were in the chute, covering them to their necks. A rescue crew of five men from the neighboring Stahl Coal Company descended into the mine shaft about 3 p.m. and worked until 10 last night in the effort to dig out the entombed miners. A second crew relieved them at 10 and succeeded in digging out Binkley by 11:40. It was well past midnight when Smith's body, was brought to the surface. There was no official report on the extent of injuries to 35-year-old Binkley late this morning though hospital spokesmen said he appeared to have no serious injuries. See more at <https://bit.ly/3pJcUo8> 🔍 👁

## June 21

In a post-regulatory period, this disaster should have never occurred.

**Clinchfield Coal Company**  
**McClure No. 1 Mine Explosion**  
**McClure, Dickenson County, Virginia**

June 21, 1983

No. Killed — 7

See more at <http://bit.ly/2J2lycU> 🔍 👁

At approximately 10:15 p.m., June 21, 1983, an explosion occurred in the 2 Left entries of McClure No. 1 Mine of the Clinchfield Coal Company, located at McClure, Virginia.

Ten miners were present in the 2 Left entries at the time of the explosion, eight in the face area and two in the track entry. Seven died because of the explosion. Three miners at the faces survived the explosion and were rescued. Ronald Sluss, Albert Holbrook, and Carson Blackstone were returned to the surface suffering from burns and were taken to hospitals.

## June 21

**Successful Rescue** on June 21, 1986 🍺

**Weaver Mine Entrapment, Durango, Colorado** — Rescuers freed a teen-ager who became wedged in a narrow shaft off a limestone cavern, and also freed a rescue worker who got stuck head-first while trying to pull the youth to safety. Thad Scheer, 17, and Keith Dahl, 28, were brought to the surface of the old Weaver Mine, as the cavern 23 miles north of Durango is known and taken to Mercy Hospital. Both men were conscious and talking, said Sgt. Dan Bender of the La Plata County sheriff's department. Their rescue ended a — **12-hour ordeal** — that included more than 100 people from 16 agencies and 10 local contractors, said Bender. Scheer became wedged deep in the cave when he was about 100 yards from the entrance and slid 10 feet down an 18-inch shaft. Scheer's companions reported the mishap a half hour later. A professional mine rescue crew from Silverton arrived at the site and about an hour later one of the rescuer workers slid head-first into the shaft. Bender said. Initially Scheer was unconscious, and the other man slipped in and out of consciousness, but oxygen fed through tubes brought both back to consciousness, said Bender. Rescuers using mining drills were able to free the two but **bringing them to the surface took another two hours**. The two were removed from the cavern on a 5-foot-wide path that has 25-foot drop-offs along the way and in some places is just 24 inches from the rock overhead, Bender said.

Workers were "crawling on their bellies and pulling the stretchers" to get to the surface, Bender said. See more at <https://bit.ly/3GKvgvt> 🔍👁

## June 22

**Successful Rescue** on June 22, 1961 🍺

**Raven Gold Mine Asphyxiations, Thompson Falls, Montana** — Jack Arms and Wally Monk were overcome by gas, then rescued from the bottom of a shaft of the Raven gold mine about eight miles northeast of Thompson Falls. A blast had been set off the night before. The miners entered the mine the next day and fell to the gases. A third partner, Ralph Provence, discovered that the two had been overcome by gas. He entered the shaft and attempted to assist them, but he was nearly overcome himself. He shouted for help and two Montana Bureau of Mines employees working nearby and two other men came to their assistance. When Provence first descended, he succeeded in opening an air compressor valve. This was credited with saving their lives. See more at <https://bit.ly/3lrNdQJ> 🔍👁

## June 23

**Lackawanna Coal and Coke Company  
Lackawanna No. 4 Mine Explosion  
Wehrum, Indiana County, Pennsylvania**

June 23, 1909

No. Killed — 21

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

**Successful Rescue** 🍺

Twelve miners were unconscious when rescued but were revived with 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.

## June 23

**Successful Rescue** on June 23, 1961 🍺🔪

**Petros Mine Cave-in, Petros, Tennessee** — A slate fall trapped four miners in an old coal mine near Petros, Tennessee. One was freed **five hours** later after rescuers severed his arm. A call for more rescuers was put out to dig through more than 30 feet of debris in a desperate effort to reach the remaining three trapped men. Robert Woods was **taken from the mine after a doctor, using a hacksaw**

**blade, cut off his arm above the elbow.** Woods' arm had been caught between rocks and a coal car. The fall occurred while the miners were taking out coal pillars and shoring up the mine which was being reconditioned after being closed. Eight miners were in the mine when the accident occurred. Three walked out safely. Later reports doubted the survival of the three other miners trapped. See more at <https://bit.ly/3KWQR8e> 🔍 👁

## June 23

**Successful Rescue** on June 23, 1937 🍺

**Reliance Colliery Cave-in, Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania** — John Zankoskie, 50, was trapped for **four hours** in a rush of coal in the Primrose vein of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company's Reliance Colliery, near Mount Carmel.

Throughout the greater part of the miners' period of imprisonment, Dr. A. B. Buczko, company compensation surgeon in the Mount Carmel district, was at the unfortunate man's side, administering surgical and medical treatment and aiding in maintaining his morale. Zankoskie was taken to the Shamokin Hospital, where he was under treatment for a mangled right leg and shock. He was expected to recover. See more at <https://bit.ly/3n9HKpq> 🔍 👁

## June 24

**Successful Rescue** on June 24, 1972 🍺

**Abandoned Mine Rescue, Garden Valley, California** — Lowell T. Simpson, 17, was rescued from an abandoned mine shaft after spending — **seven hours** — 50 feet below the ground-level opening. Sheriff's Deputies said Simpson and two other youths were exploring the old mine shaft by use of a rope when Simpson could no longer hold on and slipped down the rope. He suffered severe rope burns on his hands. A Sheriff's spokesman noted that Simpson was fortunate he did not fall farther down the shaft than he did. He explained that a pile of dirt from a previous mine cave-in broke Simpson's fall, preventing the youth from continuing down the shaft. See more at <https://bit.ly/3toCjqt> 🔍 👁

## June 25

**Successful Rescue** on June 25, 1942 🍺

**Bankston Creek Colliery Cave-in, Harrisburg, Illinois** — When Denny Moore, shotfirer at the Bankston Creek Collieries company mine failed to show up at the wash house at the end of the shift, fellow workmen started a search and found him buried under six feet of dirt. Moore's groans led the searchers to the spot where



loose earth had caved in when he stepped upon it. He was taken to a hospital for treatment for shock and an injured back. See more at <https://bit.ly/3fEc6w0> 🔍 👁

## June 26

**Successful Rescue** on June 26, 1901 🍺

**Baltimore No. 2 Breaker Fire, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania** — Six hundred men were at work in the mines when the fire started at the Baltimore No. 2 breaker of the Delaware & Hudson Coal Company, and Samuel Smith, outside foreman, and John Matthews, inside foreman, set about to rescue them. Matthews was sent down the shaft, while Smith communicated with them by telephone. Hurriedly they ran to the foot of the shaft and were hoisted to the surface. Matthews coolly mastered the situation and prevented a panic among the men in their eagerness to get out. He, with seven others, the last in the mine, who had run from the distant workings, reached the hoist as the engineer was forced to leave his station by the heat. Seven men were reported missing when the hoisting engine stopped, and it was thought they had perished, but an hour later they appeared on the surface. The men had a thrilling experience. Finding the mine filling with smoke, they made their way through some abandoned workings to an opening. They had to crawl on their hands and knees and were well exhausted when they reached the surface. See more at <https://bit.ly/3qMRWq9> 🔍 👁

## June 27

**Successful Rescue** on June 27, 1935

**Unnamed Mine Cave-in, Dillon, Montana** — Although he was trapped for — **four hours** — at the bottom of a 120-foot shaft by a cave-in, George Mickich escaped with a severe nervous shock. Mickich was working with several others in the mine at the time of the collapse but was separated from them. The others immediately launched rescue operations and succeeded in releasing the man, to whom they continually shouted words of encouragement. See more at <https://bit.ly/3L3Zy1G> 🔍 👁

## June 27 & October 11

***World's Greatest Mine Fire Marker***  
***New Straitsville, Perry County, Ohio***

Photographed By J. J. Prats

See more at <https://bit.ly/4cuWo1A> 🔍 👁



### **Marker Inscription:**

During the 9-month Hocking Valley Coal Strike beginning in June 1884, tensions between the Columbus & Hocking Coal and Iron Company and striking miners led to violence and destruction. Starting October 11, 1884, unknown men pushed burning mine cars into six mines located around New Straitsville to protest being replaced by “scab” workers. Mine operators attempted to plug all fissures to no avail. As years passed, ground collapsed under buildings and roadbeds, and mine gases seeped into schools and homes. Residents were evicted and homes demolished. Potatoes baked in the heated soil and roses bloomed in winter. At times, the fire soared 100 feet in the air and could be seen for five miles.

Ripley’s Believe It or Not broadcast a radio report on the fire and local landowners marketed “The World’s Greatest Mine Fire.” Thousands of tourists paid 25 cents to see guides cook eggs over fire holes and make hot coffee directly from a well. By 1936, the fires burned all the coal in a 36 square mile area. In 1938, the Works Progress Administration tried to create barriers to slow the fire by replacing coal and wood with brick and clay. Journalist Ernie Pyle reported on the fire for NBC Radio and in his syndicated newspaper column. The Wayne National Forest purchased many ruined fire lands in the 1930s. In the 1970s, the State of Ohio shifted a sinking Route 216 to more stable ground. Steaming ground areas stay green and snow free in the winter. The World’s Greatest Mine Fire endures.

### **June 28**

The deadliest mine disaster involving a roof fall or cave-in occurred on June 28, 1896 at the Twin Shaft Colliery in Pittston, Pennsylvania. The cave-in spanned 200 acres, killing 58 miners.

#### **Newton Coal Company**

#### **Twin Shaft Colliery Roof Fall**

#### **Pittston, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania**

June 28, 1896

No. Killed - 58

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

Two rescue tunnels were attempted, though volunteers sometimes removed only 20 feet a day. Hope faded for the victims of the disaster, most of whom were Irish and Lithuanian immigrants. Their names were compiled later because the list of those working was also underground.

There were 58 men and boys who died during the terrible cave-in, buried 434 feet below ground. In their wake, they left 31 widows and 101 orphans. None of their bodies were ever recovered. It was the **4<sup>th</sup> deadliest disaster in Pennsylvania Anthracite history.**

## June 29

### **Successful Rescue** on June 29, 2017 🍺

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.

**Vulcan Materials Company**  
**La Farge Gravel Mine Rescue**  
**Placitas, Sandoval County, New Mexico**

June 29, 2017

See more at <http://bit.ly/3509yRi> 🔍 👁

## June 30

On June 30<sup>th</sup> we commemorate the anniversary of the **11<sup>th</sup> deadliest coal mine disaster** in U. S. history. ✚

**Union Pacific Coal Company**  
**Hanna No. 1 Mine Explosion**  
**Hanna, Carbon County, Wyoming**

June 30, 1903

No. Killed – 169

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

### **Successful Rescue** 🍺

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.

## June 30

Successful Mine Rescue on June 30, 1933 🍺

**Madeira Hill Mine Cave-in, Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania** — In 1933, Joseph Terescavage, a 56-year-old miner, from Shamokin, PA was rescued after he was — **entombed for two days** — in the collapsed Madeira Hill mine near Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania. See more at <http://bit.ly/2LRWbM5> 🔍 👁

## June 30

**Successful Rescue** on June 30, 1933 🍺

**Locust Gap Colliery Cave-in, Locust Gap, Pennsylvania** — Twelve miners were rescued after being trapped by a fall of top rock in the Locust Gap Colliery of the Reading Coal and Iron Company at Locust Gap, Pennsylvania. In a **few hours**, rescuers had removed enough of the fall to allow the men to remove themselves from the danger zone. None of the men were injured. See more at <https://bit.ly/2CB2SAz> 🔍 👁