

Famous October Mining Incidents

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October 1

October has produced **54 mine disasters** with 5 or more fatalities.

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

The **top 3 deadliest disasters** were:

Stag Canon No. 2 (NM) - 263 dead

Starkville (CO) - 56 dead

Royalton North No. 1 (IL) - 52 dead

October 1

October Mine Disaster Calendar 📅

Be sure to visit our October 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/2UskW6l>



October 2

Recalling the death of **Marilyn McCusker** in 1979 from a roof fall accident in the Rushton Mine at Osceola Mills, in Centre County, Pennsylvania. While not the first woman to die in a mine, she did leave a lasting mark in mining history. See more at <http://bit.ly/2mKZZFu> 🔍 👁

Rushton Mining Company Rushton Mine Roof Fall Accident Osceola Mills, Centre County, Pennsylvania

October 2, 1979

No. Killed – 1

State Museum of PA article at <http://bit.ly/2m5XugQ> 🔍 👁

Other women killed - <https://bit.ly/2xl1LIM> 🔍 👁

October 3

In honor of the 36 miners, including 2 rescuers, that died in 1906 in the Pocahontas Mine in Virginia.

Pocahontas Consolidated Coal Company Pocahontas Mine Explosion Pocahontas, Tazewell County, Virginia

October 3, 1906

No. Killed – 36

See more at <http://bit.ly/2lbGm8L> 🔍 👁

Rescuer Deaths 🧑‍🚒

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. In the meantime, the first party had reached another entrance to the mine in safety and sent word over the mountain announcing that fact.

October 3

Successful Rescue on October 3, 1915 🍺

Foster Tunnel Inundation of No. 11 Mine, Coaldale, Pennsylvania — Six men and three boys were rescued after nearly — **seven days** — following the group's entrapment in the Foster Tunnel of the No. 11 mine when a blast released water from an abandoned working. Eleven were initially confined, but two of them, William Watkins, and George Hollywood, escaped a day after the accident happened. The other nine miners trapped sustained themselves on the remaining food in their dinner pails, lamp oil, and chicken bones. The Coaldale mining operation was the property of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. The nine trapped miners included:

- John McAndrews (boy)
- Joseph Murphy (boy)
- John Boner (boy)
- Elmer Herron
- Peter Lemmock
- Charles Matokis
- Dominic Holchek
- Joe Lagonis
- Dominic Dotori

See more at <https://bit.ly/3ivQOD7> 🔍 👁

October 4

Successful Rescue on October 4, 1915 🍺

Continental Colliery Cave-in, Centralia, Pennsylvania – 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. See more at <http://bit.ly/2IGsqMx> 🔍 👁

October 4

Roane Iron Company Rockwood Mine Explosion Rockwood, Roane County, Tennessee

October 4, 1926

No. Killed - 27

See more at <http://bit.ly/2kYjeL7> 🔍 👁

The almost superhuman struggle of one miner to escape and his failure when fresh air and safety were but a hundred feet away was revealed. Apparently crawling more than 1,000 feet to reach an air hole, Stevenson fell victim to the deadly "afterdamp" a few minutes before he would have reached a safety zone, members of the rescue crew which found his body, declared.

October 5

Successful Rescue on October 5, 1940 🍺 🎉

Fall of Ground Incident and Rescue, Scranton, Pennsylvania — Eleven-year-old Joseph Steindel rested comfortably at his home, seemingly none the worse from his brief entombment when the walls of an eighteen-foot crater near Cornell Park collapsed while he was digging coal. The little victim was jerked from the brink of eternity by four South Scranton men who extricated the victim with their bare hands. When Edward Nowrocki arrived after being attracted by the boy's screams, he saw only a blackened hand extending above the rock and debris. Nowrocki and the others joined in the rescue and digging with their hands, the skin of their fingers torn with each thrust, they piled rock, coal, and dirt to one side and in less than a minute little Joseph's head was unearthed. The youngster was unconscious but started to breathe freely by the time the rescuers had loosed his wedged body from the landslide. The lad was rushed to State Hospital in a police radio car, where he was found to have incurred only minor body bruises and shock. See more at <https://bit.ly/3FKyhff> 🔍 👁

October 6

Rescuer Deaths on October 6, 1940 🧑‍🚒

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 Company at Wanamie, Pennsylvania. See more at <https://bit.ly/3dDAkEy> 🔍 👁

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

October 7

Successful Rescue on October 7, 1905 🍺 🎉

Tunnel Ridge Mine Cave-in, Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania — Charles Rineawage was rescued — **8 hours** — following a cave-in at the Tunnel Ridge Mine at Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. His work companion, Joseph Skernolis, died in the accident. See more at <https://bit.ly/3jyCx7R> 🔍 👁

October 8

On October 8th we commemorate the anniversary of the 1910 Starkville Mine Explosion which killed 58 miners in Colorado. 🕊

**Colorado Fuel and Iron Company
Starkville Mine Explosion
Starkville, Huerfano County, Colorado**

October 8, 1910

No. Killed – 58

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

The Starkville Mine, one of the oldest coal producers in southern Colorado, was considered one of the safest in the area until an explosion on the night of October 8, 1910 killed 56 men. A spark from a short circuit on an overhead trolley line ignited coal dust causing a blast of such magnitude that it was heard and felt in Trinidad seven miles away.

Huge rocks and timbers were blown hundreds of feet from the mouth of the mine, and 40 feet of tunnel collapsed closing the entrance. A relief train of doctors, nurses and mine officials departed from Trinidad for the mine, arriving 45 minutes later. Rescuers determined the quickest way to the trapped miners was to blast another opening 300-yards from the entrance, instead of attempting to clear the debris from the collapsed tunnel.

October 9

Successful Rescue on October 9, 1908 🍺

Wilson Creek Mine Lost Person, Scranton, Pennsylvania — Patrick Hart, 70, was rescued in the Wilson Creek mine after he stood in water up to his waist for **twenty-four hours**. Knowing that his one chance of being found lay in standing in a channel which his rescuers would follow. His fellow workmen originally missed him, and when a systematic search finally led them to the spot where the old man stood. He was on the verge of collapse. See more at <https://bit.ly/32RyQp0> 🔍 👁

October 10

Successful Rescue on October 10, 1920 🍺 🎉

Plymouth Red Ash Mine Cave-in, Plymouth, Pennsylvania — Two miners employed by the Plymouth Red Ash Coal Company, owed their lives to the clear-headed calculation of a mine foreman and the faithful and heroic work of fellow-miners who rescued the miners from an entombment of more than **twelve hours**. William Young, 35, and Joseph Hillard, 48, were erecting timber in a gangway when a sudden and unexpected crash brought tons of coal and rock down within fifteen feet of them. The cave-in blocked the slope and imprisoned Hillard and Young. When word reached the surface, the mine foreman, John D. Maxwell, directed that a hole be bored from the top of the tomb and, by a mathematical deduction, he was able to reach exactly the spot where the miners were imprisoned. With picks, axes, and other tools, nearly two score of miners set to burrowing a passageway for their helpless fellow-workers. The digging and cutting of the mountain of coal which separated the pair from freedom started at 1 o'clock p.m. and ended with the rescue of the men at about 1:45 a.m. the next morning. The two miners walked home, unhurt. See more at <https://bit.ly/346Yve5> 🔍 👁

October 11

Successful Rescue on October 11, 1977 🍺

Segco No. 1 Mine Cave-in, Parrish, Alabama — Following a cave-in, Ollis 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. Kenneth Ely, 29, and a MESA/MSHA 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.

For his bravery, Mr. Ely was awarded the Department of Interior Award for Valor, the Holmes Safety Association Medal of Honor, and the Carnegie Hero Award. 🏆 See more at <http://bit.ly/2oS5pMN> 🔍 👁

October 12

Franklin County, Illinois 🕵️

13 mine disasters of 5 or more fatalities have occurred in Franklin County, Illinois. This is the **7th highest** for any county in the United States. Franklin County is tied with Fayette County, Pennsylvania. See more at <https://bit.ly/3qK1STW>



October 13

Successful Rescue on October 13, 2010 🍺 🎉

Today is the anniversary of the dramatic rescue of "**Los 33.**" Thirty-three miners were pulled from the **San Jose Copper Mine near Copiapo, Chile.** This rescue came following the longest period of entrapment on record of **69 days.** It occurred on the 13th of the month, but it wasn't a Friday. 🐱

See more at <http://bit.ly/36Poaov> 🔍 👁

October 13

Successful Rescue on October 13, 1915 🍺 🎉

Ramago No. 4 Mine Powered Haulage Accident, Webb City, Missouri — Four miners were dropped almost the whole distance down a 200-foot shaft at the Ramago No. 4 mine. The first "tub" had just started down with the underground men, carrying four, the usual number, when something went wrong with the hoister. The presumption was that the hoist operator was lowering these men on the brake instead of having his air on to get them underground quickly and the four men were dropped to the bottom of the shaft. All four men were severely injured and were rushed to the Jane Chinn hospital. All the men were expected to recover. It occurred on the 13th of the month, but it wasn't a Friday. 🐱

See more at <https://bit.ly/38yDIVN> 🔍 👁

October 14

Successful Rescue on October 14, 1917 🍺 🎉

Independent Anthracite Mine Cave-in, Shenandoah, Pennsylvania — Thomas Kilroy, 50, was rescued after being trapped for — **twenty-four hours** — in an unnamed Anthracite mine. He was held as a prisoner in the depths of the mine 1,000 feet below the surface by a fall of rock and coal. As the rescue men progressed with their work, the fall of the top continued, endangering their own lives. Suffering severely from exposure, shock and hunger, Kilroy's condition was critical, however, it was believed that he would recover. See more at <https://bit.ly/2X2Tgsh> 🔍 👁

October 14

Successful Rescue on October 14, 1919 🍺 🎉

United Verde Mine Explosives Detonation, Jerome, Arizona — A Mexican mucker, Pablo Morales, proved himself a hero when, with one eye blown out by a blast, he carried an unconscious fellow worker, William Hess, 200 yards to reach assistance. Hess, a miner, and Morales, a mucker, were working in a drift on the 500-foot level of the United Verde. Hess was loading a round of holes that he had just drilled. It was assumed that while he was engaged in this work his lamp touched the powder in a short hole. At any rate, there was an explosion that knocked both men down. Both Morales' eyes were filled with rock and dirt, and one was so badly injured that what remained of the orb was later removed at the hospital. For a miracle, he was not knocked unconscious. When he picked himself up and peered about with his good eye, he saw Hess lying covered with blood. Morales, who was much smaller than Hess, picked up the other and carried him until he met assistance. From the point where the accident occurred to the place where Morales gave up his burden was fully 200 yards. At the hospital it was found necessary to amputate Hess' right arm. Otherwise, he was only slightly hurt. Aside from the loss of his eye, Morales' injuries were of no great consequence. See more at <https://bit.ly/32N17x8> 🔍 👁

October 15

Join us as we honor the 34 miners killed in the 1937 Mulga Mine Explosion in Birmingham, Alabama. 🛐

Woodward Iron Company

Mulga Mine Explosion

Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama

October 15, 1937

No. Killed – 34

See more at <http://bit.ly/2Hakuo3> 🔍 👁

Approximately 600 men of the night shift were in the mine at the time of the explosion, but the others were working on separate levels and were not hurt or endangered, though some were near enough to be knocked down by the explosion. They came steaming to the surface where their fears were calmed, and they were organized into rescue parties and sent back below.

October 16

Successful Rescue on October 16, 1948 🍺 🎉

Golden Rod Mine No. 9 Cave-in, Picher, Oklahoma — Burford Storm, 28, was trapped for — **six hours** — in a cave-in at the Golden Rod Mine No. 9. He and his helper, John Carmack, were loading boulders at a level 235 feet below the surface when dirt, ore rock, and boulders gave way beneath them. The debris slid down about 30 feet to the bottom of the mine, carrying Storm with it. He was pinned between levels but was not covered by the debris. Carmack gained a higher level as the cave-in started and was helped out of the mine immediately. Some 25 miners worked to free Storm, finally succeeding six hours after the cave-in. Neither was seriously hurt. See more at <https://bit.ly/3tKZNGB> 🔍 👁

October 16

Successful Rescue on October 16, 1943 🍺 🎉

Collinsville Mine Lost Person, Collinsville, Illinois — Lost for more than — **27 hours** — 200 feet underground in the tunnels of a Bunker Hill Coal Company mine, John Millett, 62, was rescued, but not before he apparently gave up hope. With chalk on a piece of slate he had scribbled the words, "You're five minutes too late." Millett, a veteran mine examiner, was found unconscious several hundred feet from the central shaft by two Collinsville miners. Millett said he wrote the message in despair after one searching crew passed without seeing him where he lay helpless. He was transported to the hospital where he was treated for shock and exposure. See more at <https://bit.ly/3fNf15E> 🔍 👁

October 17

Rescuer Deaths on October 17, 2002 🚒

Storm Decline Exploration, 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. See more at <http://bit.ly/2MCXq1s>



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

October 17

Successful Rescue on October 17, 2018 🍺

Abandoned Gold Mine Rescue, Phoenix, Arizona — An Arizona prospector realized he was lucky to be alive after surviving — **nearly three days** — at the bottom of an old, abandoned gold mine shaft in the Arizona desert and staring down rattlesnakes. John Waddell, 60, broke his left leg and ankle when the rigging he used to lower himself into the 100-foot shaft about 90 miles northwest of Phoenix broke. He free-fell to the rocky bottom and saw that his left leg "was flopped up and my ankle was going the other way," according to Waddell. He had a cellphone but no service. A flashlight that didn't provide light for very long. And no food or water. Waddell said he killed three diamondback rattlesnakes with a stick before they could strike — including two the first day — and then hung on before he was finally rescued when a friend drove to the mine and heard his cries for help. It took about three hours for rescue crews to lift Waddell to safety and then to a hospital for treatment. See more at <https://bit.ly/3gl1jqT> 🔍 👁

October 18

Successful Rescue on October 18, 1923 🍺 🎉

Utah-Apex Mine Cave-in, Bingham, Utah — Joseph Norden, superintendent, and Joseph Ratalaza were rescued unhurt from the Utah-Apex metal mine after being entombed for **56 hours**. The bodies of two others were located in the rock pile near the place where Norden and Ratalaza were freed, but because of the immense

pile of stone and timbers it was impossible to identify them. One man was still unaccounted for. See more at <https://bit.ly/3tLwP9u> 🔍 👁

October 19

Successful Rescue on October 19, 1888 🍺 🎉

Winthrop Mine Cave-in, Ashpeming, Michigan — Joseph McGrath was rescued from a cave-in at the Winthrop mine near Ashpeming, Michigan following an **undisclosed period**. The escape was said to be almost miraculous, as the mass which fell on him weighed many tons. Luckily the timbers so fell as to allow him enough air to keep him alive. See more at <https://bit.ly/3ZsicWk> 🔍 👁

October 20

Successful Rescue on October 20, 1947 🍺 🎉

Helm Coal Strip Mine Material Slide, Dudley, Pennsylvania — Two employees of the Helm Coal Company at Dudley narrowly escaped death when the power shovel which they were using on a coal stripping operation at Dudley was covered by a slide of dirt and stone. The seriously injured men were rushed to the Mercy Hospital. The injured men were John Fahringer, the power shovel operator who suffered a compound fracture of the left leg, and James Harvey of Saxton, the oiler on the shovel. He, too, suffered a badly mangled left leg above the knee. He was the more injured of the two. Both men were suffering greatly from shock and both men were pinned inside the shovel. Miners and all available citizens for miles around rushed the scene and worked frantically to remove the men from their perilous positions. Another shovel was moved to the scene to aid in the removal of dirt and stone. Ambulances waiting at the scene left immediately for the hospital when the men were rescued. The men were unable to assist in their own rescue since they were pinned in the wreckage when the tons of dirt and stone crushed in the side of the equipment. See more at <https://bit.ly/3EOjKAr> 🔍 👁

October 21

Successful Rescue on October 21, 1913 🍺

Vogel and Lawrence Lignite Mine Cave-in, Rockdale, Texas — 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. Lying near the men was their mule, still alive. See more at <https://bit.ly/3nzZ3zr> 🔍 👁

October 21

Successful Rescue on October 21, 1885 🍺 🎉

Plymouth No. 2 Mine Explosion, Plymouth, Luzerne County, 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; and John Copley. 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. See more at <https://bit.ly/3FUaees> 🔍 👁

October 22

Successful Rescue on October 22, 1932 🍺 🎉

Unnamed Anthracite Mine Cave-in, Pittston, Pennsylvania — Trapped by a cave-in 1,000 feet underground in Pittston, Pennsylvania, **Park Tucker, 21**, was rescued after an **undisclosed period**. His resulting injuries included a severed arm and his legs broken in 13 places. His two work companions were killed in the disaster.

While trapped, Mr. Tucker prayed. 🙏 *"Deliver my body and soul, Lord." he said he prayed, "and I'll promise to preach the Gospel the rest of my life."*

Mr. Tucker stated that he spent 13 months in a hospital and resumed his schooling in the seventh grade at the age of 23. He later attended Wheaton Academy in Illinois and Houghton College in New York in preparation for ministerial studies. Mr. Tucker graduated from the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and on October 1, 1943, he was ordained before a congregation that packed the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Chillicothe, Ohio, fulfilling the vow he made years before. See more at <https://bit.ly/3rumZ7g> 🔍 👁

October 22

On October 22nd we commemorate the anniversary of the **2nd deadliest coal mine disaster** in U.S. history.

Stag Canon No. 2 Mine Explosion Dawson, Colfax County, New Mexico

October 22, 1913

No. Killed – 263

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

Rescuer Deaths 🚒

On October 22, 1913, **James Laird and William Poyser**, members of a rescue crew of five men of the Stag Canon Fuel Company, lost their lives while on an exploration trip in the No. 2 mine of the same company at Dawson, New Mexico, following an explosion that killed 256 men.

The crew, equipped with Draeger helmet-type apparatus, had been instructed that if they came to heavy falls, they were not to attempt to go over them; so, when a heavy fall was encountered the leader of the crew, in accordance with his instructions, told the others they had better return to the fresh-air base. However, two members of the crew disregarded these instructions and pushed forward over the fall; they were followed by the others, and eventually, the crew reached the face of the entries, a distance of about 2,000 feet from the fresh-air base.

Soon after examining the faces of the entries and before starting back toward the fresh-air base, Laird collapsed. Poyser, in attempting to revive Laird, also collapsed. The leader of the crew stayed with the men; attempting to revive them, while the remaining two crew members returned to the fresh-air base. When the crew leader realized that his oxygen supply was getting low, he also returned to the fresh-air base. The accident disorganized the rescue personnel so badly that it was not possible to assemble a crew of volunteers to recover the bodies until the next morning. See more at <http://bit.ly/37tJY9J> 🔍 👁

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

October 24

Here's a memorable 1931 accident that produced a very welcome result.

West End Coal Company

Mocanaqua Mine Explosion

Mocanaqua, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

October 24, 1931

No. Killed - 4

See more at <http://bit.ly/2Ka52YE> 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue 🍺

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 were rescued after — **133 hours** — of entrapment. The survivors were John Thomashunis, age 40, and John Metz, age 22.

October 25

Successful Rescue on October 25, 1966 🍺

Glen Falls Mine Cave-in, Harrison County, West Virginia — A coal miner, trapped by tons of slate and coal for **30 hours**, told newsmen from his hospital bed Wednesday that he simply "beat the obituaries." Edward Longwell, 52, a big man with calloused hands, was not injured in a huge roof fall at the Glen Falls Mine of the McCandlish Coal Company just north of Clarksburg.

The first collapse and another which followed 10 minutes later sealed him a mile inside at about 1 p.m. Monday. Rescuers reached him at 6 p.m. Tuesday. "I hope nobody else ever has to go through that," said Longwell, a resident of Rosemont. "I want to thank everyone who helped me." In all his 36 years of coal mining Longwell said he had had no real scrapes with death. His experience with mining apparently helped him not to panic and he said he waited calmly for rescuers.

Longwell, a mining machine operator, was "pulling pillars" when he was trapped. Usually, when the last pillar is pulled, there's a "crackling noise" when the roof falls. But he said, "It made no noise, it just came down." The miner said he ducked under the machine just in time as the slate and earth crashed down around him. He said he had about six inches of clearance around his legs and hips and a little more at his head. To breathe, he said, he put his face close to a crevasse on the floor through

which air was circulating. Longwell was expected to be released from the hospital after a short time.

John M. Ashcraft, 47, *state mine inspector*; **Baxter W. Ellison**, 47, *mine general superintendent*; and **Gayle Alvin Davis**, 27, *miner*, were each awarded the Carnegie Hero Medal for their bravery in the rescue of Mr. Longwell. 🏆

See more at <https://bit.ly/2WTbtcn> (pdf) 🔍 👁

See award write-up at <https://bit.ly/3ESoxAX> 🔍 👁

October 26

Successful Rescue on October 26, 1922 🍺 🎉

Babbitt Mine Fire, St. Augustine, Illinois — Three miners were rescued after an **undisclosed period** from the Babbitt mine at St. Augustine, when smoke from the burning hoist house and horse shed at the top of the shaft trapped them 175 feet from the mouth of the mine. They were suffering from the effects of the smoke and gases but would recover. One miner, Joe Ackerson, was dead when the rescuers reached him. Fresh air pumped into the mine by the Galesburg fire department made it possible for the rescuers to reach the entrapped men, after several attempts to bring them out had failed because of the denseness of the smoke. The rescued miners included Jim Anno, Will Anderson and Sherman Babbitt, the mine owner. See more at <https://bit.ly/4578rhm> 🔍 👁

October 27

Honoring the memory of the 15 miners killed in a methane explosion in the Daniel Boone mine. 🏛

Sterling Coal Company
Daniel Boone Mine Explosion
Daniel Boone, Hopkins County, Kentucky

October 27, 1941

No. Killed - 15

See more at <http://bit.ly/35rlz1l> 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue 🍺 🎉

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.

October 27

Remembering the 52 miners lost in the 1914 Royalton North No. 1 Mine Explosion in Illinois. †

Franklin Coal and Coke Company Royalton North No. 1 Mine Explosion Royalton, Franklin County, Illinois

October 27, 1914

No. Killed – 52

See more at <http://bit.ly/2H7K5xY> 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue 🍺 🎉

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.

October 27

Honoring the 22 miners killed in the 1958 Bishop No. 34 Mine Explosion in Bishop, Virginia. †

Pocahontas Fuel Company Bishop No. 34 Mine Explosion Bishop, Wise County, Virginia

October 27, 1958

No. Killed - 22

See more at <http://bit.ly/2H9vXV2> 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue 🍺

Thirty-seven miners erected barricades and remained behind them until they were rescued. Bishop is an unincorporated community located in McDowell County, West Virginia, and Tazewell County, Virginia.

October 28

Successful Rescue on October 28, 1901 🍺

Highland Boy Mine Cave-in, Bingham, Utah — Charles Nutting was rescued after being trapped for — **61 hours** — by a cave-in at the Highland Boy Mine at Bingham, Utah. Very weak when found, Nutting was confined in a space so small, he was unable to stand up. Another miner, William Anderson, was also missing in the incident and there was little hope of finding him alive. See more at <https://bit.ly/3BhiSjI> 🔍 👁

October 28

Successful Rescue on October 28, 1892 🍺 🎉

Indian Ridge Colliery Cave-in, Shenandoah, Pennsylvania — After being imprisoned for — **26 hours** — by a fall of coal at Indian Ridge Colliery of the Philadelphia and Reading Company, Stiney Klemovich was released from his perilous position. The man was confined, as it were, in a living tomb. He was forced by the falling coal into an almost recumbent position in a cavity 3 feet high by 5 feet long. On reaching the main part of the mine he was so delirious with joy at his escape that he kissed and hugged his deliverers. He was given stimulants and in half an hour was able to walk to his home. During his imprisonment he directed the movements of his rescuers with his voice. See more at <https://bit.ly/3sMTaTN> 🔍 👁

October 29

Successful Rescue on October 29, 1906 🍺 🎉

Anthracite Mine Fall of Person, Middleport, Pennsylvania — Falling 400 feet down an abandoned mine shaft, Joseph Schroeder of Pottsville was rescued alive, after he had been virtually — **buried all day** — and all hope of his rescue abandoned. When examined it was found Schroeder had not even a broken bone. At the time, it was the most extraordinary escape known in the history of anthracite mining. Young Schroeder left town in the morning in company with William Kalbach, to shoot pheasants. While pushing their way through the brush toward the mountain top Schroeder took the lead. He walked into a drift, lighted a match, and called to Kalbach to follow. Suddenly he gave a cry of surprise and attempted to step back, but the ground at the edge of a hole gave way with him, and he plunged feet first down into an abyss.

Kalbach hurried forward and he, too, almost plunged down the hole after his companion. Had he done so the mystery of their disappearance probably never would have been solved. Seeing he could be of no aid to his unfortunate companion, Kalbach started down the mountain for Middleport on the run and in a short time a dozen men accompanied him back with long length of rope. They went as close as they possibly could in safety and called down the shaft. Nothing but the echo of their voices greeted them. Then they tied a weight to the end of a rope and lowered it carefully into the black pit. It struck several times along the side of the jagged opening, but finally it was lowered to its full length, but the bottom had not been reached.

Men were sent back to town for more rope and when they came back the attempt was again made, but again the end of the rope failed to reach bottom. Messengers were dispatched to the collieries at Kaska and Silver Creek, whence experienced mining men were sent by officials with a long coil of stout rope. This was lowered, and, although 200 feet of it was used, the bottom of the shaft could not be touched. Not a sound came from the black hole, except the rattling of the weighted rope.

Again, messengers were dispatched for more rope. The boy's father also arrived, accompanied by several employees of the shops. One of them, John Calloway, was lowered into the opening, and after going down 200 feet he heard cries for help. Calloway was then hoisted to the surface, where he related his discovery to the great joy of the boy's father. Calloway again went into the shaft, this time at the end of a rope more than 400 feet long. He found young Schroeder at the bottom of the pit and was drawn to the surface with him. Schroeder was terribly bruised and shaken, but no bones were broken, and he would recover. See more at

<https://bit.ly/3swMWqF> 🔍 👁

October 30

October 30th — Mine Rescue Day 🚒 🍺

October 30th is a fitting day to recognize mine rescuers. **On October 30, 1911, the first national mine rescue contest was held in the United States.** It was organized by Dr. Joseph A. Holmes, who in 1910 was appointed as the first director of the U.S. Bureau of Mines by President William Howard Taft. The event was held at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was attended by Director Holmes and President Taft. See more at <https://bit.ly/2n94gCW> 🔍 👁

Watch the video at <http://bit.ly/2n94gCW> 🎬 👁

October 30

First National Mine-Safety Demonstration 🚒 🍺

Forbes Field

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

October 30 and 31, 1911

See more at <https://bit.ly/3sm6gXg> 🔍 👁

(88 Mb PDF file)

The national mine-safety demonstration at Pittsburgh, Pa., was projected and undertaken in the hope that it would aid the increase of safety in the mining industry. That the national mine-safety demonstration was warranted and has served a useful purpose was evidenced by the attendance, not only at the public demonstration in Forbes Field, but also at the more special exhibit of the work of the Bureau of Mines at the arsenal grounds and at the experimental mine.

Nearly 2,000 persons witnessed the demonstrations and exhibits of the Bureau of Mines at the arsenal grounds on the morning of October 30, 1911. The spectators were all mine operators, miners, or persons interested in mining, and represented operations in all parts of the United States. Nearly 1,200 of these persons visited the bureau's experimental mine at Bruceton to witness the explosion of coal dust. Had the weather, which was exceptionally inclement, been more favorable, there would doubtless have been a much larger attendance.

At the public demonstration in Forbes Field, which was witnessed by President Taft, from 12,000 to 15,000 persons, chiefly mining men, were present and attested their interest and enthusiasm in the mine safety exhibits by remaining throughout the proceedings, regardless of the rain which fell all the morning. Since this demonstration, the organization of first-aid corps and of rescue corps has been undertaken at mines where there had previously been no such organizations.