

# Famous November Mining Incidents

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## November

November has produced **74 mine disasters** with 5 or more fatalities.

See more at <http://bit.ly/38Xx2ZB> 🔍👁

The **top 3 deadliest disasters** were:

St. Paul No. 2 (IL) — 259 dead

Rachel and Agnes (PA) — 154 dead

Dolomite No. 3 (AL) — 90 dead


## November

### November Mine Disaster Calendar 📅

Be sure to visit our November 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/2vSwCW1> 🔍👁

## November 2

Honoring the memory of the 32 miners that were killed at Berryburg, West Virginia. 

### **Southern Coal and Transportation Company**

#### **Berryburg Mine Explosion**

#### **Berryburg, Barbour County, West Virginia**

November 2, 1900

No. Killed - 32

See more at <http://bit.ly/366kgH5>  

There was a great deal of contradictory talk about the cause of the explosion. The authorities refused to discuss the matter further than to say it was caused by an excessive charge of powder being used. The miners insisted that it was caused by fire damp. The mine had been recently inspected and pronounced to be in good condition.

## November 3

### **Zeigler Coal Company**

#### **Zeigler Mine Fire**

#### **Zeigler, Franklin County, Illinois**

November 3, 1908


No. Killed – 31

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

### **Rescuer Deaths** on Nov. 3, 1908

A fire broke out in the Zeigler mine after the day shift had left the mine. The fire was caused by crossed electric wires and although it was originally very small, it was expanded and originated several explosions and eventually brought about the death of — **31 men** — who attempted to put it out. Once Draeger helmets were purchased, a single man wearing one of the helmets was sent into the mine to reconnoiter. It was reported that the cartridges were caked, and the man panicked, pulled off the helmet and perished.

## November 3

Commemorating the anniversary of the Kettle Creek mine explosion at Westport, Pennsylvania. 

### **Kettle Creek Coal Company Kettle Creek Mine Explosion Westport, Clinton County, Pennsylvania**


November 3, 1888

No. Killed - 17

See more at <http://bit.ly/2EW64o6>  

The testimony at the inquest all went to show that the mine was properly ventilated and that no blame belongs to anyone except the miners themselves. Their familiarity with the dangerous explosives which they used in their daily vocations had no doubt rendered them careless in the manner of handling it and led to the disaster, which resulted in their deaths. The force of the explosion must have been terrible, as every particle of clothing was stripped from many of the dead bodies.

## November 3

Remembering the 51 miners that were killed in the 1926 Barnes-Hecker Mine Inundation in Michigan. 

### **Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company Barnes-Hecker Mine Inundation Ishpeming, Marquette County, Michigan**

November 3, 1926

No. Killed - 51

See more at <http://bit.ly/2Jg92aM>  

The back of one of the stopes in this iron mine caved to the overlying glacial drift material and the mine was filled with water and quicksand. Within approximately 15 minutes of the time that the cave started, all the workings of the mine were completely filled; water rose in the shaft to within 185 feet of the surface, later receding to about the 540-foot level.

Of the 52 men in the mine, **only one escaped** by climbing 800 feet of ladders in the shaft. The stope that caved had been worked by top slicing, starting 220 feet below the top of the ore body. Above this undermined thickness of ore was about 210 feet of glacial surface material, water-soaked and containing small ponds.

## November 3

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 3, 1940 📅

**Penn-Anthracite Collieries Company Cave-in, Scranton, Pennsylvania** — Julius Yankowski was rescued after spending — **49 hours** — trapped by a cave-in in a mine operated by the Penn-Anthracite Collieries Company near Scranton, Pennsylvania. His companion, James Long, was found dead when reached by rescuers. See more at <https://bit.ly/3pCr63A> 🔍 👁

## November 4

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 4, 1916 📅

About **15 hours** after the explosion at the Bessie mine, a trained apparatus crew of 5 men found 3 men at a break in the air line. The party was then about 1,000 feet from fresh air, and the men were able to proceed to safety with the aid of the apparatus crew. Thirty men were killed by the explosion, 5 escaped unassisted, and 3 were rescued as noted. See more at <http://bit.ly/2Q2zjMe> 🔍 👁

**Sloss-Sheffield Steel and Iron Company**

**Bessie Mine Explosion**

**Palos, Jefferson County, Alabama**

November 4, 1916

No. Killed - 30

## November 4

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 4, 1913 📅

**Sunday Creek Mine No. 9 Lost Miner, Shawnee, Ohio** — Ben Arbaugh, 37, was rescued from the Sunday Creek Mine No. 9, after being lost for — **three days and nights** — in an abandoned part of the mine without food or water. He went into the mine on October 31st to get some tools and became confused. He wandered into an old tunnel and tramped for hours trying to find his way. Arbaugh's lamp finally burned out and he groped around in the dark for 48 hours. Exhausted and partly overcome by black damp, he gave up all hope of escape. When found he was in a semi-conscious

condition, but soon regained his senses after being brought out to light and fresh air. He would recover. See more at <https://bit.ly/2XMqIJP> 🔍 👁

## November 5

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 5, 1907 🍺

A cave-in deep inside the **Draper Mine at Gilberton, Pennsylvania**, followed by an inrush of culm and water from the surface trapped Michael McCabe for — **87 hours** — before rescuers managed to free him. He was released from his prison barely alive.

See more at <http://bit.ly/2Q3Z6E1> 🔍 👁

## November 5

Honoring those that died in the 1930 No. 6 mine explosion in Millfield, Ohio. ☠

### **Sunday Creek Coal Company No. 6 Mine Explosion Millfield, Athens County, Ohio**

November 5, 1930

No. Killed - 82

See more at <http://bit.ly/2Jg7dKT> 🔍 👁

**Successful Rescue** 🍺

19 miners were rescued **10 hours** after the explosion. The miners, most of them unconscious, were found behind a ventilation partition. John Dean, Inside Foreman, is credited with saving the lives of the rescued miners, including him. Dean and the other miners erected and gathered behind a ventilation partition which protected them from the deadly gases. Dean risked several trips into the smoke-filled entries to carry some of his comrades to safety before he collapsed and had to be carried to safety.

## November 6

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 6, 1951 🍺

**Unnamed Mystic Coal Mine Tragedy, Mystic, Iowa** — Dr. Granvil L. Richey, 44, who was injured seriously November 6 at Centerville, Iowa, while attempting to descend into a mine shaft to administer aid to a stricken miner, was reportedly in an improved condition at St. Mary's hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, after undergoing a series of operations because of his injuries.

Dr. Richey suffered a broken nose, jaw, left leg, right heel, and ankle, when a cable broke while he was descending into the shaft to aid the miner, plunging the elevator and its occupant 125 feet to the bottom of the shaft. The Centerville physician, a graduate of Columbus high school and Indiana University Medical School, was the medical director at St. Joseph's hospital in Centerville, where he was taken immediately after the accident occurred.

The miner the Doctor was going down to aid was Eugene Welch. He was caught in a cutting machine. His leg required amputation in hospital 3 hours after the accident.

Note: No mention of the name or owner of the mine where this accident occurred could be found in multiple news articles other than to say it was a coal mine located near Mystic, which is northwest of Centerville, Iowa in Appanoose County. See more at <https://bit.ly/38Chw7B> 🔍 👁

## **November 6**

Honoring the memory of the 27 miners that were killed in the Glen Rogers No. 2 Mine in 1923. ✚

### **Raleigh-Wyoming Mining Company Glen Rogers No. 2 Mine Explosion Glen Rogers, Wyoming County, West Virginia**

November 6, 1923

No. Killed - 27

See more at <http://bit.ly/2F0PTG4> 🔍 👁

The explosion was ignited by an arc from an electric drill at an entry face where ventilation had been interrupted by a disarranged curtain and an open door. The roadways were wet, but dust added to the intensity of the explosion.

## **November 6**

Commemorating the 1922 Reilly No. 1 mine explosion and the loss of 79 miners at Spangler, Pennsylvania. ✚

### **Joseph H. Reilly, owner Reilly No. 1 Mine Explosion Spangler, Cambria County, Pennsylvania**

November 6, 1922

No. Killed - 79

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

At 7:20 a.m. on Monday, 112 men had begun work when the explosion occurred, blowing out some stoppings and overcasts and the side and end walls of the fan housing. All were badly affected by afterdamp, as were 18 of the rescuers. Apparatus crews were then admitted, and 22 other survivors were rescued. Five other men made their way out unassisted. Seventy-six bodies were found, and 3 of the rescued men died.

### Successful Rescue 🍺

33 miners were taken out alive after an **undisclosed period**, but three succumbed to their injuries. Of the remaining 30 rescued, all were at the Spangler Hospital and the attending physicians, who were doing everything in their power for them, said all would recover.

## November 7

### Successful Rescue on Nov. 7, 1939 🍺

**Alaska Colliery Cave-in, Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania** — Joseph Wydra, 34, and Robert Morgan, who were rescued after having been closed in several hours in the mines at the Alaska colliery were still feeling the effects of the dampness of their confine but otherwise were alright following their experience. The fall which trapped them was a heavy fall and enclosed the two men in the pillar hole until they were finally rescued nearly **5 hours** later. The night foreman discovered the plight of the miners and immediately summoned other bosses and workmen to begin the work of breaking through the barrier of rock and debris. See more at <https://bit.ly/45nN6R9> 🔍 👁

## November 8

On November 8<sup>th</sup> we commemorate the anniversary of the Victor American No. 3 Mine Fire. 🛖

### Victor American Fuel Company

### Victor American No. 3 Mine Fire and Explosion

### Delagua, Las Animas County, Colorado

November 8, 1910

No. Killed - 79

See more at <http://bit.ly/2L75ViM> 🔍 👁

At about 1 p.m. a fire occurred on the inby side of a door in a crosscut between a main entry and aircourse. At 2 p.m. when the fire was discovered all the officials went into the mine to fight the fire and a motor was sent outside to get hose. At 2:30 p.m., before it could get back an explosion occurred. About 121 men were in the mine: of these 28 came out through the connecting No. 2 mine, 4 were rescued alive from behind a canvas barricade by helmet men, and 14 men who also had bratticed themselves came out the following day. Three men on the outside at the pit mouth were killed by flying rocks and timbers.

### **Rescuer Death** 🚒

A member of the rescue crew who gave his breathing apparatus to one of the four men found behind the barricade stayed behind to wait for the party's return. He was later found overcome in another part of the mine and died the next morning.

## **November 9**

Nine miners were saved in this 1888 Kansas disaster which killed 40.

### **Cherokee and Pittsburg Coal Company Frontenac Shaft No. 2 Explosion Frontenac, Crawford County, Kansas**

November 9, 1888

No. Killed – 40

See more at <http://bit.ly/2La29Fr> 🔍 👁

### **Successful Rescue** 🍺

Nine miners were successfully rescued after the explosion. At 5:30 p.m. on November 9, an explosion occurred in the Frontenac Shaft No. 2 of the Cherokee and Pittsburg Coal Company. At 4 a.m. (**10½ hours**), five had been rescued, and at 1 p.m. (**19½ hours**), four more were brought out alive.

## **November 9**

### **Successful Rescue** on Nov. 9, 1909 🍺

**Copper King Mine Cave-in, Reno, Nevada** — Charles Moody and Harry Anderson, miners who were buried under tons of rock and timbers in a cave-in in the Copper King



mine were rescued alive. Falling rock warned the men that something was wrong and gave them time to crawl up to the 170-foot level. They had barely reached safety when the cave-in occurred. Forty men worked — **47 hours** — to rescue the buried miners. See more at <https://bit.ly/3CiNv9F> 🔍👁️

## November 9

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 9, 1983 🍺

**Tire Hill Mine Lost Miner, Tire Hill, Pennsylvania** — For nearly **30 hours**, George Havrilak, 56, was as alone as any man ever was, in a place as dark as it ever gets. The veteran inspector, who started working at the mine in 1946, failed to come out by shift's end. The rescue teams, three from nearby mines and one from the state converged on the scene and began their search. Havrilak was led to safety from the Tire Hill Mine of the Bird Coal Company by one of four rescue teams that had been working in relays, searching the pit for some trace or the body of Havrilak.

Havrilak explained what happened when he went into the Somerset County mine, which had been closed since 1980.

*I go in every day and examine the mine. I look for any methane gas buildup. I check the air, the water level and keep watch on the ventilation. I usually stay in until 3 in the afternoon, and I try to cover most of the mine. What happened was that my head light went out. I guess it wasn't charged right ... sometimes that'll happen. It's battery-operated, it's charged every day. All you do is just plug it in. I don't know what happened this time. I would say I had been in about four or five hours ... it must have been about 12 or 1 o'clock when it went out.*

*I had a buglight, but I slipped and fell, and it fell off my belt and I couldn't locate it. It doesn't put out much light, but it gives you enough to walk by. When the light went out, I waited a hile and then decided to work my way out. I got in the air current ... I faced the air ... and I knew I could get to the air shaft and then I could find my way out. I was never panicky. I knew all the time I would make it out. I knew if I kept the air in my face, I would get out. I didn't want to work up too much of a sweat. I would go along a bit and then I'd rest and then I'd go and then I'd rest. I knew I had a long way to go. I knew where I was. I know that mine real well. It's just that it's hard to make any time in the dark.*

*Havrilak said he knew rescue teams would be searching for him, and he believed he and the teams must have passed each other several times during the search. He noted, though, that the mine has a lot of entries ... and there are cross cuts. It's pretty easy, I guess, for someone to go up one and you're in another one and nobody knows where someone is. I didn't hear them, and they didn't hear me. That's the part I can't figure out. How could we have passed each other a couple times without them noticing me or hearing me?*

As a precaution, Havrilak was transported to Johnstown Memorial Hospital for observation. See more at <https://bit.ly/33xS3x3> 🔍 👁

## November 10

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 10, 1955 🍺

**Union Pacific Coal Mine Cave-in, Rock Springs, Wyoming** — Rescuers dug frantically in their attempt to reach the last of three men trapped by a cave-in at a Union Pacific coal mine near Rock Springs. One of the other two miners, Louis Julius, 38, was rescued apparently in good shape, but his companion, John Nesoit, 41, a mine foreman, was crushed to death a few yards away. Julius owed his escape to his machine under which the rescuers found him huddled after — **seven hours** — of frantic digging. See more at <https://bit.ly/3PVnPbb> 🔍 👁

## November 11

**Shoal Creek Coal Company**

**Shoal Creek No. 1 Mine Explosion**

Panama, Montgomery County, Illinois

November 11, 1910

No. Killed – 6

See more at <http://bit.ly/30B1wwq> 🔍 👁

**Successful Rescue** 🍺

Fifty men who were working in the section (area) of the Shoal Creek No. 1 Mine where the explosion occurred were rescued after an **undisclosed period** according to the mine management. Six miners died in the incident.

## November 12

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 12, 1929 🍺

**McNeil Coal Company Mine Cave-in, McGregor, Colorado** — Three miners entombed 400 feet below the surface in the rock works of the McNeil Coal Company mine were liberated. A crew of 50 men had worked in relays for — **13 hours** — clearing away an avalanche of dirt, rocks and coal which had blocked the way. The entombed men were suffering from intense cold but otherwise were none the worse for their experience. They were supplied with air through a pipe. See more at <https://bit.ly/33Spie5> 🔍👁

## November 13

Commemorating the anniversary of the Great Cherry Coal Mine Fire of 1909. This was the **3<sup>rd</sup> deadliest coal mine disaster** in U.S. history. ☠

**Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad**

**St. Paul No. 2 Mine Fire**

**Cherry, Bureau County, Illinois**

November 13, 1909

No. Killed - 259

See more at <http://bit.ly/2rtaY4K> 🔍👁

**Rescuer Deaths** 🚒 ☠

". . . there were 259 men and boys who were never saved despite great deeds of heroism by volunteer rescue teams. Sadly, that heroism was rewarded with death for no less than twelve of the rescuers. They were a hastily assembled team of people from the town who went down in the cage six times, each time dragging more miners to safety. From the seventh trip into the hell below, however, none returned alive."

**Successful Rescue** 🍺

One group of miners, 500 feet underground, had built a wall of mud, rocks, and timbers to block off the poisonous gases. They were in total darkness with only a pool of water leaking from a coal seam to drink. After — **8 days** — of confinement, they could bear it no longer. They tore down the barricade and began crawling through the tunnels. Finally, they heard a search party. Twenty-one men still alive from this group were rescued. It occurred on the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month, but it wasn't a Friday. 🐱

## November 14

### Pocahontas Colliery Company

### Pocahontas Baby Mine Fire

### Pocahontas, Tazewell County, Virginia

November 14, 1901 - 9 killed

November 22, 1901 - 8 killed

See more at <http://bit.ly/2Jm7Y58> 🔍 👁

### Successful Rescue 🍺

**Four days** after the start of the Pocahontas Baby mine fire in Pocahontas, Virginia, Fritz Moulter was found barely alive, entombed in a room on the east side. Six physicians worked with him before he was restored to consciousness.

### Rescuer Deaths 🧯 +

While the fires were being fought, a small explosion occurred, which injured no one, but blew out some of the brattices and allowed the smoke and gases to pass through into the adjoining West Mine. Nine men in the West Mine were overcome by smoke and suffocated. On November 22, 1901, a rescue party of eight men was also overcome by gases in the West Mine and suffocated.

## November 14

### Successful Rescue on Nov. 14, 1914 🍺

**Sibley Mine Cave-in, Ely, Minnesota** — Entombed for **five days and nights** in a black hole ninety feet below the surface in the Sibley mine, Joseph Skusik gasped out a tale of horror from his hospital cot last night. For — **112 hours** — Skusik fought hunger, thirst, and fear that he was going mad. A few yards away, in the blackness of the mine drift, he heard another miner, imprisoned by the cave-in, shouting to him in despair while the dirt seeped slowly down for hours and hours.

*"Then the dirt came with a rush " said Skusik. " I heard him yell once — then it was all quiet and I knew he was gone."*

The body of the smothered miner was brought to the surface when Skusik was hoisted to the top of the shaft. It lay a short distance from the spot where rescuers found Skusik. Efforts to find four other miners entombed in the cave-in were redoubled while their wives and little children waited about the hospital where Skusik lay. Mine

officials, however, held out little hope for finding the men alive. See more at <https://bit.ly/3DzHrJC> 🔍 👁

## November 15

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 15, 1912 🍺

**Horn Silver Mine Explosion and Cave-in, Frisco, Utah** — A party of 7 was entombed for — **14 hours** — following an explosion and cave-in at the Horn silver mine near Frisco, Utah. The group, which included the 2 teenage daughters of the mine foreman, was on a sightseeing tour of the mine. The group was imprisoned at 10 o'clock the night before when an explosion occurred. A cave-in that followed blocked their exit until rescuers removed the mass of earth and timbers. See more at <https://bit.ly/3ElcWb9> 🔍 👁

## November 16

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 16, 1915 🍺

A rescue party under the superintendent at once commenced recovery and repair of the Northwestern mine slope and rescued 4 men; 3 were unconscious and were given artificial respiration, but 1 died. See more at <http://bit.ly/2EW8fbr> 🔍 👁

**Northwestern Improvement Company**

**Northwestern Mine Explosion**

**Ravensdale, King County, Washington**

November 16, 1915

No. Killed - 31

## November 17

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 17, 1948 🍺

**John George Lease Mill Entrapment, Wardner, Idaho** — George A. Scheurich was rescued after being buried for — **four hours** — under seven feet of muck in a chute at the John George lease mill in Wardner. Fellow millmen and Bunker Hill employees rescued him by tearing out the sides of the ore chute. Scheurich was alone when the accident occurred, and it is believed he was walking on top of the muck when it started to roll. He was uninjured but suffered from cold and cramp and was being kept in the hospital for observation. See more at <https://bit.ly/46VqYPf> 🔍 👁

## November 17

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 17, 1949 🍺

**Alaska Coal Company Mine Cave-in, Hinton, West Virginia** — Howard Daniels, 41, of Beelick Knob, received treatment at the hospital, after being removed from under a slate fall at the Alaska Coal Company near Hinton, where he was trapped for **about three hours**. He was to be X-rayed for possible fractures, but the extent of his injuries was not fully determined, although he suffered shock and exposure. See more at <https://bit.ly/46Td7ZI> 🔍 👁

## November 18

**Bottom Creek Coal and Coke Company  
Bottom Creek Mine Explosion**

Vivian, McDowell County, West Virginia

November 18, 1911

No. Killed - 18

See more at <http://bit.ly/3hDm3xX> 🔍 👁

**Successful Rescue** 🍺

By heroic work the rescuers reached the scene of the disaster after an undisclosed period and found engineer Alexander Williams and 3 other men who were brought out alive. All were injured. Hoping to reach others of the entombed men the rescuers pushed the work with all haste. One after another they found the victims and by midnight all but two had been brought out of the mine. The dead included 4 other engineers.

## November 18

**Alabama Fuel and Iron Company  
Acton No. 2 Mine Explosion**

Acton, Alabama

November 18, 1913

No. Killed - 24

See more at <http://bit.ly/3EyZsvF> 🔍 👁

An explosion occurred at this mine as a result of two or more blown out shots from very badly placed holes, probably charged with black powder. Of the 29 men in the mine, 24 were killed, 13 by injury or burns, and 11 by asphyxiation.

## November 19

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 19, 1971 🍺

**Grays Knob Coal Mine Cave-in, Harlan, Kentucky** — Jessie Cornett was rescued after spending — **9 hours** — trapped from a roof fall in the Grays Knob Coal Company mine near Harlan, Kentucky. The 25-year-old miner was operating a coal cutting machine when he spotted the rock begin to fall. He managed to duck under the steel cage of the machine for protection. Four hours passed until he heard his name shouted by the rescuers. Before that, his co-workers thought he was dead. See more at <https://bit.ly/3mfAU1B> 🔍 👁

## November 20

Commemorating the anniversary of the 1968 Consol No. 9 mine explosion in Farmington, West Virginia. This disaster compelled Congress to pass the Health and Safety Act of 1969. ✚

**Farmington Mine Disaster**  
**Consol No. 9 Mine Explosion**  
**Farmington, Marion County, West Virginia**

November 20, 1968

No. Killed – 78

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

Listen: Farmington Disaster Audio - <http://bit.ly/32loltY> 🎧

**Successful Rescue** 🍺

Eight miners were rescued **five hours** after explosions ripped through the No. 9 mine owned by the Consolidation Coal Company. 13 other miners managed to exit the mine shortly after the 1<sup>st</sup> of at least three explosions tore through the mine.

## November 21

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 21, 1938 🍺

**Lehigh Navigation Mine No. 6 Cave-in, Coaldale, Pennsylvania** — Two men were rescued alive from beneath a rush of coal in a chute on the fourth level of the No. 6 mine of the Lehigh Navigation Coal Company. The accident victims, Michael Rock and Frank Byer, were engaged in placing plank in the chute when the rush occurred. Rock was completely covered, and Byer was covered to the shoulders.



Rescuers worked from 11:00 in the morning until 2:00 in the afternoon (**3 hours**) when they freed Rock, and an hour later (**4 hours**) succeeded in freeing Byer. Both men were able to walk from the workings and physicians said they had escaped serious injuries.

Rock, who had been covered, told rescuers his head was protected between two large lumps of coal, permitting him to breathe. Byer's head was free at all times. Both men refused to go to Coaldale Hospital for physical checkups, declaring they had escaped injuries and did not suffer any material evidence of shock. See more at

<https://bit.ly/3KB7Vzt> 🔍 👁

## November 22

On November 22nd we commemorate the anniversary of the 33rd deadliest coal mine disaster in the United States. ✝️ 🙏

### **Woodard Iron Company Dolomite No. 3 Mine Explosion Dolomite, Jefferson County, Alabama**

November 22, 1922

No. Killed - 90

See more at <http://bit.ly/2L8mMli> 🔍 👁

### **Successful Rescue** 🍺

An unidentified foreman assembled thirty workers after the blast took place and ordered all to remain with him and work on fixing up brattices with stones and canvas to shut off the dreaded afterdamp gas that he felt sure was to follow the explosion. When the fans started up again, the air cleared sufficiently to indicate that it was safe to tear down the temporary wall and the foreman led his men out. One miner, who objected to remaining with the rest of the men was found only a few feet away from the temporary brattice. He had become a victim of the gas.

## November 23

### **Successful Rescue** on Nov. 23, 1932 🍺

**Brookside Colliery Inundation, Pottsville, Pennsylvania** — Four miners were rescued after an **undisclosed period** from the flooded Brookside Colliery near Pottsville, Pennsylvania. A shot fired by workers released an underground pocket of water. The



four trapped men waited for hours for the aid they knew was coming toward them. Charles Deichert, 23; and Simon Bohr, 36; drowned in the incident. See more at <http://bit.ly/358jEBF> 🔍👁

## November 24

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 24, 1912 🍺

**Delaware and Hudson Mine Fall of Person, Scranton, Pennsylvania** — To fall down a distance of 68 feet and escape uninjured, except for slight lacerations of the scalp and face, was the unusual experience of Sank Mimce, 31, of Olyphant. While standing at the opening of the Delaware and Hudson mine shaft, Mimce suddenly became dizzy and tumbled down the shaft pit. That he was not killed was due to the fact that there was three feet of water at the bottom of the shaft, and this broke his fall. See more at <https://bit.ly/3G2fJZI> 🔍👁

## November 25

In 1926, five miners were rescued after an — **8-day entrapment** — following an inundation of water in the Tomhicken Mine.

**Successful Rescue** Nov. 25, 1926 🍺

Six miners were trapped by water in the **Tomhicken Mine of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company in Pennsylvania** on November 16, 1926. **One man died, but five men were rescued 8 days later.** Those rescued included Henry Kirchdoerfer, August Yensick, Michael Lorincz, John Gondera, and Mike Lawrence. See archived news at <http://bit.ly/2JdVnkt> 🔍👁

## November 26

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 26, 1937 🍺

**Lytle Colliery Cave-in, Pottsville, Pennsylvania** — Two miners were saved from death in the Lytle Colliery where they had been imprisoned for **more than twenty-four hours**. Rescue crews, working in relays, rescued Harry Hunter, 44, and Albert Muraski, 34, after tunneling through many tons of rock and coal on the fourth level. They were taken to a Pottsville hospital for observation. Physicians said their condition was not serious but that they would be detained until all danger of pneumonia was past. See more at <https://bit.ly/3GNwtCS> 🔍👁

## November 27

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 27, 1970 🍺

**Hasting Mine Fall of Person, Deemstown, Pennsylvania** — Harry T. King, 25, was seriously injured when he fell about 300 feet after slipping from a cable in a shaft of the Hasting Mine at Deemstown, Pennsylvania. King was rescued — **four hours** — after he fell. Firemen had to enter the bottom shaft through the mine and plodded a mile and a half to reach King. The mine is owned by Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation. Harry Dale King, 21, cousin of the injured man, also had been sliding down a cable but saved himself by stepping onto a beam about 350 feet from the bottom of the shaft. Companions were outside the mine and called police when the Kings failed to return. See more at <https://bit.ly/3qOeDdw> 🔍 👁

## November 27

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 27, 1944 🍺

**Boothton Mine No. 2 Cave-in, Birmingham, Alabama** — Three coal miners, trapped — **more than 2 days** — in the No. 2 mine of the Boothton Coal Mining Company were rescued unharmed, it was revealed by D. A Thomas, company president. The trio, Lewis Lawley, Ellis Boothe, and Leslie Patton were entombed 8,000 feet from the mine entrance. Rescue squads who reached them passed food through holes in the barrier. See more at <https://bit.ly/3FR0G2J> 🔍 👁

## November 28

On November 28<sup>th</sup> we commemorate the anniversary of the **12<sup>th</sup> deadliest coal mine disaster** in the United States. ✚ 🙏

**Pittsburg-Buffalo Coal Company  
Rachel and Agnes Mine Explosion  
Marianna, Washington County, Pennsylvania**

November 28, 1908

No. Killed - 154

See more at <http://bit.ly/2L8G1Lt> 🔍 👁

The disaster occurred about 10:45 on Monday morning. All employees in the mine were killed but one. As the fan casing was destroyed and the top of the outlet shaft and headframe badly wrecked, it was several hours before ventilation could be partly

restored. By Wednesday morning all the bodies had been removed, except those covered by the debris and water. The mine was badly wrecked, stoppings destroyed, timbers dislodged, and roof fallen. Fred Elinger, age 39, was the only miner to escape alive. See archived news at <http://bit.ly/36aisiC> 🔍👁

## November 29

**Celebrating the dramatic rescue of four miners 105 years ago today from the Gold Hunter mine near Mullan, Idaho.** ✚🙏

**Gold Hunter Mining and Smelting Company  
Gold Hunter Mine Cave-in and Rescue  
Mullan, Shoshone County, Idaho**

November 15-29, 1919

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

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 29, 1919 🍺

Emil Sayko and Peter Grant were rescued — **14 days** — following a cave-in at the Gold Hunter mine near Mullan, Idaho. When they were finally reached, Grant and Sayko were wrapped in blankets and their eyes were bandaged to protect them from the unaccustomed light. They were described as "looking fine," although "a trifle weak." In the same incident, Jacob Delmarh and James Collins were rescued from a secondary cave-in after being trapped for **15½ hours**.

## November 29

In memory of the 31 miners that died in the 1940 Nelms mine explosion in Harrison County, Ohio. ✚🙏

**Ohio and Pennsylvania Coal Company  
Nelms Mine Explosion  
Cadiz, Harrison County, Ohio**

November 29, 1940

No. Killed - 31

See more at <http://bit.ly/3kolp1W> 🔍👁

A gas and dust explosion occurred in the Helms mine of the Ohio & Pennsylvania Coal Company at Nelms, Ohio, about 1:20 p.m., while 135 men were underground. The 31 men in the 7 and 2 east section of the mine were killed from carbon monoxide

poisoning and burns but the remaining 104 men escaped uninjured and unassisted from the mine. It was believed that the explosion was initiated at or near the face of room 13, driven from 8 east air course, by an ignition of gas from a permissible mining machine or an electric drill, both of which were in a non-permissible condition. It was believed that the electric drill was the most likely source of ignition. The explosion undoubtedly was propagated by gas and dust.

## November 30

**Successful Rescue** on Nov. 30, 1926 🍺

**Morea Colliery Mudslide, Pottsville, Pennsylvania** — Two men entombed when a mud swamp gave way blocking the entrance to the Morea Colliery were brought to the surface uninjured. The men who were trapped were rescued after — **13 hours** — of feverish work by squad of 50 men assembled by officials of the Madeira, Hill and Company, owners of the mine. See more at <https://bit.ly/496eohP> 🔍👁️