

# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Description of Fatal Mine Accidents 1987 – 2024

## BITUMINOUS FATALS

### March 27, 1987 – Greenwich Collieries No 2 Mine – Classification – Fall of Roof

The victim was fatally injured when a roof fall occurred.

### June 5, 1987 – James Cowfer Contracting Company Inc – Classification – Powered Haulage

The victim was fatally injured when he was crushed between the truck bed and frame.

### August 17, 1987 – Rosebud Mining – Classification – Machinery

A mobile bridge carrier operator was killed when he was crushed between the MBC and the coal rib.

### October 3, 1987 – Gateway Mine – Classification – Powered Haulage

A supply car derailed causing the lead locomotive to derail and strike a masonry block wall. Several pieces of the wall fell, striking the victim, who was in the operator's compartment.

### October 14, 1987 – Ed Hanslovan Coal Co Inc – Classification – Machinery

The victim was fatally injured when he was manipulating the hydraulic boom controls of the gradall he was driving, and his head was crushed between the rear portion of the telescopic boom and a hydraulic cross-over oil pipe.

### October 25, 1987 – Homer City Mine – Classification – Powered Haulage

The victim was fatally injured when a personnel carrier was knocked off the track striking him and dragging him approximately 27 feet and crushing him.

### March 16, 1988 – Putt Mine – Classification – Fall of Highwall

Victim was drilling an auger hole into a pillar of an abandoned underground coal mine when a portion of the highwall directly above the auguring machine fell collapsing the protective screen above the operator's work platform.

### April 29, 1988 – Bird No. 2 Mine – Classification – Inundation

Victim suffered a massive heart attack while in the 9 Slant pumping area of the Island Creek Coal Company's Bird #2 mine. The oxygen deficient atmosphere from the abandoned area was a likely contributor to the heart attack.

### November 3, 1988 – Beth 33B – Classification – Machinery

Victim was performing mine examiner duties, riding in jeep and for some unknown reason ran into tail of rock loader, sustaining crushing injuries of the chest.

### October 11, 1989 – Mine No. 1 – Classification – Electrical

Victim was attempting to steal copper wire from de-energized overhead line leading to the mine. Victim was electrocuted.

### November 4, 1989 – Homer City – Classification – Machinery

Operating mine locomotive crushed between top of locomotive and rails of roof.

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#### June 10, 1990 – Beth 33B – Classification – Machinery

Portal bus was traveling along No. 4 track when vehicle derailed at the No. 6 chute north manual track switch. Victim was thrown out of portal bus and pinned between bus and cement block wall causing fatal crushing injuries.

#### September 25, 1990 – Pitt Gas – Classification – Fall of Roof

Unintentional roof fall, trapped, victim died of crushing injuries.

#### May 19, 1992 – Beth 33 PP – Classification – Machinery

Dozer operator was pushing coal into No. 4 feeder. Operator was backing up and dozer fell cab end first into a void at the No. 2 feeder.

#### July 28, 1992 – Warwick – Classification – Machinery

Victim failed to seek refuge in a place of safety and was in the middle of the track entry while a trip of longwall shields were being transported.

#### July 19, 1993 – Quemahoning No. 1 – Classification – Machinery

Performing maintenance work on continuous miner. Co-worker left area, leaving victim alone. When section foreman was making his pre-shift exam, he found victim crushed between coal rib and cutter head of the continuous miner.

#### November 5, 1993 – Penn Run – Classification – Machinery Victim was lubricating machine and became entangled.

#### July 20, 1994 – Dora 6 – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim was run over and pinned under and between two P-242 tractors.

#### November 16, 1994 – Mine No. 84 – Classification – Fall of Face-Rib

Victim was performing his duties when a large portion of the mine wall separated and fell, striking victim in the back causing fatal injuries.

#### June 17, 1995 – Mathies – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim received crushing injuries as the result of being caught between a stationary and moving object.

#### July, 25, 1995 – Purco Strip – Classification – Machinery

The victim was struck by a log being pulled by a bulldozer.

#### April 10, 1996 – Cumberland – Classification – Machinery

Moving stageloader from face when duke jack came loose and struck the victim causing fatal injuries.

#### October 26, 1996 – Maple Creek – Classification – Powered Haulage

Motor operated by victim was pulled under a skid striking him causing fatal injuries.

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#### February 7, 1997 – Bailey – Classification – Machinery

Co-worker jogged stageloader conveyer chain, victim was pulled through the stageloader and underneath the crusher, causing victim to receive crushing injuries.

#### March 28, 1997 – Mine No. 84 – Classification – Machinery

Positioned between continuous miner and rib observing diagnostic indicators. While using remote control unit, victim caused the mining machine to move, entrapping himself.

#### July 1, 1997 – Maple Creek – Classification – Fall of Face-Rib

Victim was working as belt repairman underground when he was struck by a falling section of the mine entry wall.

#### July 15, 1997 – Sarah – Classification – Fall of Roof

Victim was kneeling in by the rear bumper of continuous miner when the supported roof above him fell.

#### December 22, 1999 – Dianne – Classification – Fall of Roof

Victim was operating a continuous-mining machine when a section of unsupported roof fell causing fatal injuries to the victim.

#### October 29, 2000 – Bailey – Classification – Machinery

Weld holding eyelet to steel beam imbedded in concrete structure failed, causing fatal injuries to victim.

#### June 27, 2001 – Solar 7 – Classification – Fall of Roof

Operating a continuous miner via remote control when fatally injured by a roof fall.

#### May 11, 2002 – Mine No. 84 – Classification – Electrical Operator

exited coal hauler while machine frame was energized.

#### June 13, 2003 – Mt. Spring Mine No. 1 - Classification – Electrical

Troubleshooting a power imbalance problem on mine power substation – electrocution.

#### June 10, 2005 – Tracy Lynne – Classification – Fall of Roof Victim

was crushed by a roof fall.

#### December 12, 2005 – Logansport – Classification – Fall of Roof

Roof collapsed on the continuous mining machine and employee.

#### April 5, 2007 – Mine No. 84 – Classification – Slip or Fall

Fracture to ankle – later died due to complications related to injury.

#### February 18, 2008 – 14-North Impoundment – Classification – Electrical

Truck-mounted crane became energized by a 25,000 high voltage power line while the victim was performing crane-rigging duties.

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#### February 25, 2008 – Nolo – Classification – Powered-Haulage

Victim was setting up survey station in the shuttle car roadway, when he was struck and ran over by a shuttle car.

April 18, 2008 – Little Toby – Classification – Machinery Victim was pinned between the bridge system and the mine wall.

July 11, 2008 – Nolo – Classification – Machinery Victim was pinned against coal rib by a belt feeder.

#### June 23, 2009 – Bailey – Classification – Fall of Roof

Victim was struck by a piece of rock, causing fatal crushing injuries.

#### January 28, 2015 – Brubaker – Classification – Machinery

Victim was struck by the continuous miner tail pinning him against the coal rib.

#### February 20, 2015 – Heilwood – Classification – Fall of Roof

Victim was struck by roof rock and received fatal crushing injuries when he was pinned between a piece of roof rock and the top of the drill canopy.

#### June 27, 2015 – 4 West – Classification – Other

Victim attempted to close a set of air lock doors and they became dislodged and fell on him.

January 16, 2016 – 4 West – Classification – Fall of Face-Rib Victim was struck on the head and back by a large piece of rib.

September 11, 2018 – Kocjancic – Classification – Machinery Victim was crushed between the rib and the MBC.

#### December 20, 2018 – North Fork – Classification – Machinery

Victim was pinned between the bridge that attaches company number one and two MBC and the Rib.

#### August 29, 2019 – Enlow Fork – Classification – Fall of Face-Rib

Victim suffered multiple bodily injuries when a 25' x 8' x 3' section of rib failed, covering him.

May 14, 2021 – Kocjancic – Classification – Fall of Roof Victim was crushed when a rock fell from the unsupported roof.

March 2, 2022 – Maple Springs – Classification – Fall of Face – Rib Victim was fatally injured when a piece of rib struck him.

#### October 22, 2022 – Acosta Mine – Classification – Electrical

Victim was fatally injured when he contacted energized components in a 480-Volt AC float switch electrical box (float switch box), while standing in a sump, in an outby area of the mine.

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## October 2, 2023 – Maple Springs Mine – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim was fatally injured when he was struck by a shuttle car and pinned against the coal rib.

## ANTHRACITE FATALS

## October 3, 1988 – Tuscarora Coal Company – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim was trying to clear a blockage in the bottom of a coal chute when a load of coal was dumped on his head.

## July 25, 1989 – M. and R. Slope – Classification – Powered Haulage

The victim, operating a loader, careened over the outer edge of the roadway resulting in multiple traumatic injuries to the head and chest, and subsequent death of the victim.

## September 27, 1994 – Harmony – Classification – Fall of Roof

Victim was installing roof support when a section of roof fell, striking him.

## March 30, 1995 – Primrose Slope – Classification – Electrocution

Victim was loading coal into the main slope car, utilizing the loading conveyor extending from the No. 1 Breast when he was electrocuted.

## July 25, 1995 – No. 4 Slope – Classification – Fall of Rib

Two miners were fatally injured due to the collapse of three rib supports.

July 16, 1998 – Tracy Slope – Classification – Explosion/Ignition Unplanned detonation of explosives causing fatal injuries to the victim.

## October 1, 2004 – Jeddo No. 8 Prep. Plant – Classification – Fire

Trapped inside of frontend loader.

October 23, 2006 – Buck Mountain Slope – Classification – Explosion/Ignition Fatally injured from forces of a methane gas explosion.

June 16, 2008 – Harmony – Classification – Struck By Struck and pinned against the rib by falling rock.

July 25, 2017 – Oak Hill Bank – Classification – Machinery Victim was run over by a D9 dozer.

November 29, 2018 – Waste Management and Processors, Inc.- Classification – Machinery Victim was struck in the forehead by a temperature probe caused by over pressurization of a hydraulic component on the rear of the valve manifold of the hydraulic system on a service truck.

## October 27, 2020 – Williamstown No. 1 – Classification – Fall of Roof

Victim was installing roof support when a section of roof approximately 5.5 ft. wide, 9 ft. long and 2 feet thick fell on him.

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#### January 29, 2024 – Ellangowan Bank – Classification – Powered Haulage

Miner died when the haul truck he was operating traveled over the edge of a stockpile and overturned.

#### July 25, 2024 – Atlantic Carbon Group – Classification – Powered Haulage

A miner died when material from a stacker belt conveyor engulfed him at the bottom of the belt conveyor. The miner was on the stacker belt conveyor shoveling material off the belt conveyor when the belt conveyor unexpectedly rolled backward.

### INDUSTRIAL MINERALS FATALS

#### June 12, 1987 – Cambria Quarry – Classification – Entrapment

The victim was fatally injured when the bank of the excavated ditch he and another employee were working in collapsed.

#### July 20, 1987 – Jerry Johnson Flagstone Quarries – Classification – Machinery

The victim was fatally injured when the raised body of a dump truck on which he was working fell on him.

#### April 26, 1993 – Springfield Pike – Classification – Explosion/Ignition

Victim was air arc welding, he shut off torch and placed it in the tank compartment. Acetylene gas leaked from torch into tank compartment. Victim was blown 16 feet by the force of the explosion.

#### August 20, 1995 - Koophns Steel Services – Classification – Machinery

Victim was fatally injured when he was struck on the head by three sheets of steel that were being unloaded from his truck.

#### February 6, 1996 - Devault Crushed Stone – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim was fatally injured when he was crushed between the lift arm and the roll-over protective structure (ROPS) of a small utility loader.

#### May 8, 1996 - Explo Tech Inc. – Classification – Explosives & Breaking Agents

Victim was fatally injured when a non-electric down-hole primer he was assembling detonated prematurely.

#### June 26, 1996 - H. W. Cooper & Sons – Classification – Slip or Fall of Person

Victim was fatally injured when he jumped onto an elevated walkway, and it collapsed.

#### April 11, 1998 - Keystone Landfill, Inc. – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim was fatally injured when he became entangled in a conveyor belt tail pulley.

#### January 21, 1999 – Murray's Contracting Co. – Classification – Falling, Rolling, or Sliding Rock

Victim was fatally injured when he was engulfed by material while working inside a cement silo.

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#### December 21, 1999 - Compass Quarries Inc. – Classification – Explosives and Breaking Agents

Victim was fatally injured when he was struck by flyrock while sitting in a pickup truck.

#### April 12, 2000 - New Hope Crushed Stone – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim was fatally injured when he became entangled in the bend pulley of the gravity take-up system.

#### May 5, 2001 - Ellis Farm Mine – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim was fatally injured when he was pinned beneath the boom and fork attachment of a skid-steer loader that he was repairing.

#### February 8, 2004 – Graymont (PA) Inc. – Classification – Slip or Fall

Victim fell from machine while opening hatches on tanker.

#### December 06, 2004 - Kuhl Sand & Gravel – Classification – Fall of Highwall

Victim was fatally injured when he was trapped in the cab of a front-end loader by falling material.

#### September 13, 2005 - West Pittsburg Quarry – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim was fatally injured when the 50-ton haul truck he was operating overturned.

#### February 13, 2006 - Pyramid Materials – Classification – Machinery

Victim was fatally injured when he was struck by a pitman assembly that was being removed from the crusher at the secondary plant.

#### August 29, 2006 - Somerset Quarry & Mill – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim was fatally injured while walking from the mine's main shop toward the plant when he was struck by a front-end loader.

#### August 18, 2008 – Coolspring – Classification – Crushing

Chain being used to lift counterweight failed, causing counterweight to strike the victim.

#### October 7, 2008 – Hummelstown Quarry – Classification – Falling, Rolling, or Sliding Rock

Victim was fatally injured when he was engulfed in a chute in an underground surge tunnel.

#### December 15, 2011 – Damascus 535 Crushing – Classification – Machinery

The victim was operating a portable jaw crusher and fell into the jaw crusher.

#### September 19, 2013 – T. G. Mountain Stone – Classification – Powered Haulage

The victim was operating a 2½ ton truck up a steep roadway. He was hauling water tanks on the bed of the truck when the truck overturned on its roof and crushed him.

#### October 10, 2014 – Lehigh Cement Company – Classification – Slip or Fall of Person

The truck driver was inside a loading rack closing the hatch on top of a bulk tanker truck. When the victim raised the rack to access the hatch, he fell between the rack and rounded side of the truck and then fell to the ground .

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#### November 25, 2014 – Edwards Sand & Stone – Classification – Powered Haulage

The victim backed the truck he was driving to the edge of the overburden dumpsite and started to raise the truck's bed to dump a load of material. The bank failed and the truck overturned falling 30 feet below. The victim died enroute to the hospital.

#### March 23, 2015 – Kane's Quarry – Classification – Machinery

The miner was operating a walk behind masonry saw, positioned between the saw and a ledge, when he tripped and fell. The victim and the saw went over the 4½ foot ledge and the saw fell on him.

#### August 22, 2018 – Birdsboro Materials – Classification – Powered Haulage

The victim used an aerial lift positioned under the No. 3 tunnel belt to access the take-up pulley assembly components. As the victim was attempting to manually clean the north side of the west end pulley, he became entangled between the rotating pulley and the moving conveyor belt, resulting in fatal injuries.

#### July 26, 2021 — G & R Mineral Services — Classification — Slip or Fall of Person

A contract employee was conducting maintenance duties at the number 6 cement cooler when he fell approximately 25 feet onto a concrete floor.

#### January 7, 2022 – Lake Lynn – Classification – Crushing

Victim was inside the loader cab when rock fell from the unsupported roof and crushed the cab of a CAT 988K front-end loader.

#### September 8, 2023 – Sewickley Mine – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim died while he was working inside a recirculation hopper after a front-end loader dumped limestone material into the hopper.