

Women Killed in Mine Accidents

Compiled by Rob McGee for the U. S. Mine Rescue Association

Production Mine Accidents

Date	Victim	Company/Mine	Location	Cause	Description	Sources
01/19/1844	Mrs. David Jones	Unspecified Company & Mine	Pottsville, PA	Unknown	Mrs. David Jones was fatally injured in an accident of unknown cause at the indicated location and date.	Source
11/24/1874	Mrs. (Ino) Huber	Unspecified Company & Mine	Ohio	Unknown	Mrs. (Ino) Huber was fatally injured in an accident of unknown cause at the indicated location and date.	Source
01/12/1881	Mrs. Jonathan Hawkins	Unspecified Co., Cottonwood Canyon Mine	Alta, UT	Avalanche	Mrs. Jonathan Hawkins was fatally injured following a series of snowslides which, in addition to the tragic loss of life, demolished two boarding houses, a compressor, and a station house associated with the Little Cottonwood Canyon Mine. Several people in the boarding house were killed.	Source
11/11/1891	Mrs. William Williams	Unspecified Company & Mine	Pennsylvania	Unknown	Mrs. William Williams was fatally injured in an accident of unknown cause at the indicated location and date.	Source
08/19/1902	Mrs. Charles Proctor	Unspecified Company & Mine	Jasper, MO	Unknown	Mrs. Charles Proctor was fatally injured in an accident of unknown cause at the indicated location and date.	Source
12/14/1906	Parthena Rhodes	Unspecified Co., Pulaski Mine	McDowell County, WV	Explosives	Four miners were killed by an explosion of 400 kegs of powder (10,000 lbs.) on the outside of the mine. The powder had just been unloaded from a railroad car and was being hauled in the mine cars to the powder magazine. Parthena Rhodes and Martha A. Johnson (non-employees) are women who were in a nearby house that was wrecked by the explosion.	Source
12/14/1906	Martha A. Johnson	Unspecified Co., Pulaski Mine	McDowell County, WV	Explosives	Four miners were killed by an explosion of 400 kegs of powder (10,000 lbs.) on the outside of the mine. The powder had just been unloaded from a railroad car and was being hauled in the mine cars to the powder magazine. Parthena Rhodes and Martha A. Johnson (non-employees) are women who were in a nearby house that was wrecked by the explosion.	Source
01/26/1907	Mrs. Gabriel Gandolf	Northwestern Improvement, Mine No. 2	Roslyn County, WA	Powered Haulage	Mrs. Gabriel Gandolf, 37, was taking coal from tippie tracks when an out-coming trip ran over her, inflicting fatal injuries. This woman had been repeatedly warned to keep off the tracks, it being against mine rules for persons to pick coal from or walk tracks.	MSHA Database
06/22/1912	Mrs. Cartright	Unspecified Company & Mine	Dante, VA	Powered Haulage	Mrs. Cartright, wife of Foreman Cartright, along with a lady friend of Mrs. Cartright were killed when they lost control of the elevator they were riding in descending into an unnamed mine. Mr. Cartright and two children were injured in the fall.	Source

07/27/1913	Mrs. F. Collyardi	Unspecified Company & Mine	Hibbing, MN	Unknown	Mrs. F. Collyardi, age 32, was fatally injured in an accident of unknown cause at the indicated location and date.	Source
11/20/1920	Mrs. Annie Kasmonites	Unnamed Coal Co., No. 11 Mine	Inkerman, PA	Powered Haulage	Mrs. Annie Kasmonites, an aged woman, met with fatal injuries when she was struck by the small mine "Iokie" at No. 11 shaft. The deceased was picking coal near the mouth of the tunnel and before the engineer could stop the small engine, she was run down.	Source
05/09/1931	Mrs. George Dolack and Mrs. Mary Bebnarchik	Unspecified Company & Mine	Thayer, IL	Cave-in	Mrs. George Dolack, 55 and Mrs. Mary Bebnarchik, 60 met instant death under a fall of hundreds of tons of coal slack and slate. The women were picking up pieces of coal when one side of the pile of slack cave-in, burying them.	Source
11/11/1931	Mrs. Emma Ricketts	Unspecified Company & Mine	Kansas	Unknown	Mrs. Emma Ricketts, age 66, was fatally injured in an accident of unknown cause at the indicated location and date.	Source
05/12/1932	Mrs. Naomi Jarvis	San Gabriel Canyon Gold Mine	Covina, CA	Cave-in	Mrs. Naomi Jarvis was killed when a cave-in occurred in an unnamed gold mine in the San Gabriel Canyon near Covina, California. Mrs. Jarvis and another miner, David Workman, were caught in the collapse. Mr. Workman was freed from the material by rescuers after an undisclosed period.	Source
02/22/1933	Mrs. Clara Moger	Baukol-Noonan Inc. Lignite Mine	Noonan, ND	Unknown	Mrs. Clara Moger was fatally injured in an accident of unknown cause at the indicated location and date.	Source
02/25/1936	Unidentified Female	Bird Camp Gold Mine	Ouray, CO	Avalanche	20 miners were trapped for 10 hours in a tunnel of the Bird Camp Gold Mine by an avalanche of snow. Two men and a woman were killed when the avalanche roared down Devil's Slide of Chicago Hill smashing a bunkhouse and closing the mouth of the mine tunnel.	Source
03/05/1937	Mrs. M. C. Losier	Unspecified Company & Mine	Derry, PA	Roof Fall	Mrs. M. C. Losier, 67, died from injuries suffered in a mine roof fall in a mine she operated near Derry, Pennsylvania. Believed to be the only woman coal operator in Westmoreland County, she had operated the mine ever since her husband died several years earlier.	Source
05/21/1943	Mrs. Mary E. Elliott	Wide Awake Mine	Downieville, CA	Falling Material	Mrs. Mary E. Elliott was crushed to death by a heavy boulder at the Wide Awake mine when a derrick boom snapped and dislodged the boulder. The mine has been operated during the summer by Mrs. Elliott and her husband Alfred.	Source
01/04/1951	Ethel Eugene Jones	Black Mountain Mine No. 31	Harlan County, KY	Roof Fall	Ethel Eugene Jones, 29, was fatally injured in an underground fall of roof accident at 11:30 p.m. She died on January 5, 1951.	MSHA Database
03/21/1975	Unidentified Female	Unspecified Company & Mine	Oliver Springs, TN	Falling Material	An unidentified woman was killed and her son was injured when a large rock fell from a highwall.	MSHA Database

01/29/1976	Unidentified Female	Kline Dredge and Plant	Woodward, OK	Powered Haulage	The victim and her young son (passenger) were killed instantly when the truck she was driving was struck by a train.	MSHA Database
09/19/1976	Charlene R. Salazar	Climax Mine	Climax, CO	Falling Material	Charlene R. Salazar, 22, was fatally injured when she was caught beneath a fall of material from a finger raise and suffocated.	Source
10/25/1976	Sherry LaGace	Hol-Acc Corp. Strip Mine	Pikeville, KY	Powered Haulage	Sherry LaGace, 24, was killed October 25th when a heavy-duty scraper she was operating stalled and overturned on a steep hill at a Hol-Acc Corporation strip mine near Pikeville. The Kentucky Office of Mines and Minerals said Ms. LaGace was the first woman of record to die in a coal mine mishap in the state.	Source
11/03/1978	Unidentified Female	Ash Fork Portable Crusher	Ash Fork, AZ	Machinery	The victim was fatally injured when she was attempting to change a grease fitting on a self-cleaning tail pulley.	MSHA Database
10/02/1979	Marilyn McCusker	Rushton Mine	Osceola Mills, PA	Roof Fall	This accident occurred at about 3:15 p.m. on Oct. 2, 1979, five years after Marilyn McCusker first applied for a job with Rushton Mining. She was performing the dangerous job of roof bolter helper when a section of the mine roof collapsed. Tons of rock and debris fell on McCusker, suffocating her.	Source
10/03/1979	Unidentified Female	Balc1s Plant	New Branufells, TX	Fall of Person	The victim was fatally injured when she fell 74 feet through a 19 by 23 inch cleanout hole on the deck of the clinker silo to a concrete floor at ground level.	MSHA Database
10/09/1979	Mary Bradley	Climax Mine	Climax, CO	Explosives	Mary Bradley, 23, was one of two people killed when 100 to 150 lbs. of dynamite they had set in place detonated prematurely. Five other workers were hospitalized for injuries and shock.	Source
02/28/1980	Shelly R. Salo	Minntac Mine	Mountain Iron, MN	Handling Materials	Shelly R. Salo, 21, was fatally injured when the base of an electric power cable support stand she was working near fell over pinning her underneath.	Source
03/11/1980	Eleanore Bowman	P. M. Charles Coal Co., No. 4 Mine	Rawl, WV	Caught Between	Eleanore Bowman, 25, was killed shortly before midnight on March 11 in the P. M. Charles Coal Company No. 4 mine when she was caught between the deck of the tractor frame and the continuous miner's conveyor boom. Ms. Bowman became the first female mine employee to die in a West Virginia mine.	Source
06/04/1980	Jackie Marie Herran	Peabody Coal Co., Camp No. 11 Mine	Morganfield, KY	Powered Haulage	Jackie Marie Herran, 40, classified belt cleaner, was killed when she tried to replace the trolley pole that came off the wire and was crushed between the overcast and the top of the locomotive. She was the first woman to die in an underground coal mine in Kentucky.	Source
03/29/1981	Jillene Hess Robbins	Nevada Moly Project	Tonopah, NV	Powered Haulage	At about 5:06 a.m., March 29, 1981, Jillene Hess Robbins, age 27, was crushed when the truck she was driving overturned, threw her out, and pinned her beneath it. Robbins had four 10-hour shifts of driving experience at this mine, and reportedly had 6 years heavy truck driving experience.	Source

06/21/1983	Mary Kay "Kat" Counts	Clinchfield Coal Co., McClure No. 1	McClure, VA	Explosion	At approximately 10:15 p.m., June 21, 1983, an explosion occurred in the 2 Left entries of McClure No. 1 Mine of Clinchfield Coal Co., located at McClure, Virginia. Ten miners, including Mary Kay Counts, 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 as a result of the explosion. Three miners at the faces survived the explosion and were rescued.	Source
07/28/1984	Florence Colleen Whitmore	Nevada Moly Project	Tonopah, NV	Powered Haulage	Florence Colleen Whitmore, haulage driver, was fatally injured when she was run over by a 120-ton Wabco Haulpac dump truck. For unknown reasons, she left the cab without setting any of the three braking systems and was run over by the truck she had been operating.	Source
12/19/1984	Nannett Wheeler	Wilberg Mine	Wilberg, UT	Fire	At about 9:00 p.m., December 19, 1984, a fire occurred at an air compressor station at the mouth of the 5th Right longwall section in the Wilberg Mine. Twenty-eight miners, including Nannett Wheeler, were present in the 5th Right section at the time of the fire. Only one survived.	Source
02/12/1986	Karen Laverne Welker	Lone Star Quarry	Cape Girardeau, MO	Machinery	Karen Laverne Welker, general truck driver, age 40, was fatally injured at approximately 7:30 a.m. on February 12, 1986. Her head and the upper part of her body were crushed by a metal Dempster Dumpster trash container. She apparently was behind the open dumpster, preparing to clean out the suspended open container with a scraper, when the top portion of the container fell and crushed her. She was killed instantly. Welker had 7 years 8 months total mining experience with 2 years 5 months experience as a general truck driver, all at this operation.	Source
05/13/1995	Unidentified Female	Jewell Smokeless No. 18 Mine	Whitewood, VA	Inundation	A woman was killed when an outburst resulted in damage to the supporting structure of the dwelling causing the kitchen area to collapse and she was entrapped.	MSHA Database
07/17/1996	Joyce C. Gerwitz	Bullitt County Stone	Shepherdsville, KY	Sliding Material	Joyce C. Gerwitz, welder, age 38, died of suffocation at about 5:05 p.m. on July 17, 1996, when she was engulfed by a slide of material while cutting an opening at the end of a pug mill surge tunnel. She had a total of 9 days mining experience, all with this company. The victim had received training in accordance with 30 CFR Part 48. Eight hours had been completed on July 10, 1996.	Source

01/15/1997	Isabelle Marcelle Justus	Getchell Mine	Golconda, NV	Powered Haulage	Isabelle Marcelle Justus, age 36, an underground lube technician/laborer, was fatally injured at approximately 4:20 p.m. on January 15, 1997, when the loader she was servicing crushed her against the rib. Justus had one year and three months of mining experience, all at this mine. She had held the title of lube technician the past nine months. Justus originally was hired as a surface warehouse worker and was given 24 hours of surface new miner training. She was later transferred underground but was not given the required underground new miner training. There also were no records to indicate that she had received task training upon being assigned lube technician duties.	Source
03/23/1997	Stephanie Renee Counsil	Galatia Mine No. 56-1	Harrisburg, IL	Rib Fall	Stephanie Renee Counsil, stage loader operator, was fatally injured when a large portion of a rib fell, covering and pinning her against a longwall stage loader master controller. The accident occurred because the ribs in the area where the stage loader operator works around the 6th East Longwall Stage Loader were not supported or otherwise controlled to protect the stage loader operator. A rib collapsed, crushing the stage loader operator against the longwall stage loader master controller.	Source
07/08/1997	Nancy Hughes	Neverson Quarry	Bailey, NC	Powered Haulage	Nancy Hughes, contract truck driver, age 44, was fatally injured at about 1:40 p.m., on July 8, 1997, when she drove her truck into the path of an on-coming train. Hughes had fifteen weeks experience in this job. The victim had not received training under the requirements of 30 CFR, Part 48.	Source
08/08/1997	Lisa McDowell	Overland Services	Bound Brook, NJ	Electrical	Lisa McDowell, age 19, was electrocuted at approximately 7:00 a.m. on August 8, 1997, as she stepped out of the cab of an over-the-road haul truck that had contacted an overhead high voltage power line. She and William Richardson, age 20, were passengers of Michael Austin, age 41, truck driver for Overland Services, Inc., an independent trucking company contracted to haul finished material from the mine. Austin had not received training in accordance with 30 CFR Part 48.	Source
02/27/1999	Onita L. Davis	Tiftonia Quarry	Chattanooga, TN	Fall of Highwall	Onita L. Davis, contract driller, age 45, was fatally injured at about 9:00 a.m. on February 27, 1999, when she was struck by a rock that fell from a highwall. Davis had a total of 6 years experience as a driller with the contracting company. She had received training in accordance with 30 CFR, Part 48.	Source

04/21/2000	Candi Reeve	Rattlesnake Pit	Hurricane, UT	Powered Haulage	On April 21, 2000, Candi Reeve, wash plant operator, age 18, was fatally injured when she became entangled in the conveyor belt tail pulley. The accident occurred because management had not established procedures that required moving machine parts to be guarded. The victim was assigned to operate the plant alone which was likely a factor contributing to the severity of the accident.	Source
09/17/2001	Mary C. Sigers	Cardinal Mine	Madisonville, KY	Powered Haulage	Mary C. Sigers was accidentally struck by the Eimco diesel scoop as it was entering the mouth of the No. 4 entry. She received fatal blunt crushing to the chest area as a result of being trapped between the underside of the scoop bucket and the mine floor.	Source
10/12/2002	Helen L. Pittington	Russell Pit	Wellington, CO	Powered Haulage	Helen L. Pittington, president, age 52, was fatally injured on October 12, 2002, when she was struck by a front-end loader that was backing up. The accident occurred because the victim inadvertently placed herself in the loader operator's blind spot.	Source
10/21/2002	Judith D. Beeson	R-D Mac	La Grande, OR	Powered Haulage	On October 21, 2002, Judith D. Beeson, truck driver, age 51, was injured when a portion of a dumpsite collapsed causing the truck she was driving to overturn and fall into the water at the No. 1 pit. The victim died of the injuries sustained on October 25, 2002.	Source
04/21/2003	Georgie Vogel	North Marion Quarry No. 388	Marion, KS	Powered Haulage	Georgie Vogel, weigh master, age 58, was fatally injured on April 21, 2003, when a pickup truck, driven by the plant manager, struck and entered the building where she was working. The vehicle was traveling on a mine road adjacent to the building. The accident occurred because a mine employee had a medical condition that caused him not to be fully cognizant of his actions at all times. Subsequently, he failed to maintain control of the vehicle he was operating.	Source
10/23/2003	Cindy Foglesong	Midwest Controlled Storage Mine	Quincy, IL	Roof Fall	Cindy Foglesong, 43, of Hannibal, Mo., was killed when part of a limestone ceiling weighing several tons collapsed deep inside the J. M. Huber Corp. mines, crushing the pickup truck in which she was sitting. Rick Zwingelberg, director of operations for J. M. Huber, said the truck was owned by a Huber employee, Leonard Harscher. He said the relationship between the employee and Foglesong is unknown, and that J. M. Huber officials do not know how the woman -- not employed by the company -- got into the mine.	Source

04/24/2008	Rebecca A. Dysart	Pattison Sand Mine	Clayton, IA	Powered Haulage	Rebecca A. Dysart, laborer, age 48, was fatally injured on April 24, 2008. Dysart was struck by a front-end loader that backed up. The accident occurred because management policies and procedures failed to ensure that persons could safely work in areas where mobile equipment operated and failed to ensure that safety defects were corrected in a timely manner. The right rear-view mirror on the front-end loader was broken along the top portion and the mounting bracket was bent. The victim's cap lamp was not positioned on her hard hat and no reflective material was on the hard hat. Reflective material on the victim's equipment belt was obscured by the cap lamp battery, self-rescuer, and possibly by the black coat she was wearing.	Source
09/15/2009	Wynetta J. Raye	Ozark Premium Sand	Bradford, AR	Powered Haulage	On September 15, 2009, Wynetta J. Raye, delivery truck driver, age 59, was fatally injured when she was struck by a front-end loader. Raye parked a delivery truck on a county road adjacent to the mine and walked onto the site to deliver a package. The front-end loader operator was backing the loader toward Raye's truck but did not see her behind the loader.	Source
07/21/2011	Jeri L. Etsitty	Navajo Mone	Fruitland, NM	Powered Haulage	Shortly after 8:45 p.m., while walking with Jolene Begay on a mine roadway that was often used for walking by company personnel, Jeri L. Etsitty was struck by a pickup truck operated by William Thompson, Account Manager for P&H Mine Pro Services. She was pronounced dead at the site at approximately 12:00 a.m. on July 22, 2011.	Source
05/15/2012	Angela W. Common	Sterling Materials	Verona, KY	Powered Haulage	Angela W. Common, 37, died while operating a new piece of equipment in an underground quarry at Sterling Materials. Common was driving a large dump truck when she hit a rock wall and was ejected, the truck then rolled over her. Common had recently returned back to work at Sterling Materials after taking a year off for medical reasons and was taking a refresher course at the time of the accident.	Source
11/03/2018	Jill Marlene Klein	O-N Minerals Cedarville Operation	Cedarville, MI	Powered Haulage	Jill Marlene Klein, 44, shift supervisor, was run over by a loaded Caterpillar 785B haul truck while sitting in a pickup truck at the crusher site.	Source

Non-Production Mine Accidents

Date	Victim	Company/Mine	Location	Cause	Description	Sources
10/14/1902	Mrs. Sophia White	Coal Breach	Mahanoy City, PA	Cave-in	Mrs. Sophia White, 35, together with her husband and son were picking coal in a mine breach in Mahanoy City. They were at work under a ledge of slate and rock. Without warning this rock became loosened and struck the woman and completely buried	Source

07/15/1966	Ruth Ann Miller	North Tamarack No. 4 Shaft	Calumet, MI	Fall of Person	Ruth Ann Miller, age 7, fell into the abandoned North Tamarack No. 4 shaft of Calumet and Hecla Incorporated.	Source
11/01/2001	Amy Armstrong	Copper Queen Haunted Mine	Bisbee, AZ	Powered Haulage	Amy Armstrong, 26, fell under the wheels of a mine train carrying about 40 people during a mine tour of the Copper Queen Haunted Mine 1,500 feet inside a mountain. Armstrong apparently had been caught under a fallen wooden beam and was pinned against the wall of the mine by the train until several men freed her.	Source
11/01/2009	Linda Rose	Abandoned Tungsten Peak Mine	Bradys, CA	Fall of Person	Linda Rose, 30, was killed when she fell into a shaft of the abandoned Tungsten Peak Mine south of Bradys, California. Rose fell about 100 feet down. She had taken her young nephew to the site and apparently got too close to a shaft and ended up falling in when the ground gave way beneath her.	Source