

Famous January Mining Incidents

1 – January stats	10 – Frank Kasian	21 – Van Slander
2 – Sago	10 – James Latsha	22 – Knox
2 – Crown Hill No. 6	11 – A. Marashak	22 – McElroy
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7 – Silver King	16 – Butte Hardware	26 – Ray Harrington
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10 – Bartley No. 1	21 – Orrel	31 – Primero

January

January has produced **86 mine disasters** with 5 or more fatalities.

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

The **top 3 deadliest disasters** were:

Harwick (PA) - 179 dead

Mammoth (PA) - 109 dead

Mine No. 11 (OK) - 100 dead

January Mine Disaster Calendar 📅

Be sure to visit our January 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/2GV5p7e>. 🔍👁

January 2

Remembering the Sago Mine Explosion of 2006. This disaster, along with the Darby No. 1 mine explosion and the Alma No. 1 mine fire, prompted passage of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006.

International Coal Group, Inc.

Sago Mine Explosion

Tallmansville, Upshur County, West Virginia

January 2, 2006

No. Killed - 12

See more at <http://bit.ly/2Thzhz5>. 🔍👁

Twenty-nine coal miners went underground at International Coal Group's Sago Mine near Buckhannon in Upshur County, West Virginia, on the morning of January 2, 2006. At 6:26 a.m., a methane ignition in a recently sealed area of the mine triggered an explosion that blew out the seals and propelled smoke, dust, debris, and lethal carbon monoxide into the working sections of the mine.

One miner was killed by the blast. Sixteen escaped. Twelve were unable to escape and retreated to await rescue behind a curtain at the face of the Two Left section. Approximately 41 hours later, mine rescuers entered the mine and found the trapped miners. All but one, Randal McCloy Jr., had succumbed from carbon monoxide asphyxiation.

For more about the MINER Act, visit <http://bit.ly/2GEVu4c> 🔍👁

January 2

Successful Rescue on Jan. 2, 1939 🍺

Crown Hill No. 6 Mine Fire, Clinton, Indiana — Nineteen miners were rescued from the Clinton Coal Company's Crown Hill No. 6 Mine Fire near Clinton, Indiana after being trapped there for **10 hours**. Rescuers waded water waist-deep through another tunnel, abandoned for 20 years, broke down a barrier and reached the men from behind. See more at <https://bit.ly/3nkFGhh>. 🔍👁

December 29, 1908 – January 12, 1909

Within a span of 14 days, a total of **117 miners** employed at the **Lick Branch Mine** of the Pocahontas Consolidated Coal Company in McDowell County, West Virginia became the victims of two mine explosions that occurred there. †

12/29/1908 - 50 killed - <http://bit.ly/31N5KRG> 🔍 👁👁

01/12/1909 - 67 killed - <http://bit.ly/2PrznoU> 🔍 👁👁

January 4

All mine disasters produce horrific results, but the descriptions published after the 1906 Coaldale mine explosion are among the worst I've encountered since this project began.

Coaldale Coal Company Coaldale Mine Explosion Coaldale, Mercer County, West Virginia

January 4, 1906

No. Killed - 22

See more at <http://bit.ly/365iKog>. 🔍 👁👁

The explosion occurred at about 11:30 o'clock when practically the entire force was at work in the mines. The shock of the explosion was felt throughout the miles of tunnels and passages. Before the explosion that shook the mountain had died away, Thomas Williams, himself some distance from the scene, staggered to his feet, and, feeling his way to a telephone, told those on the outside that there had been an explosion, and asked for help.

January 5

Tennessee Copper Company Boyd Mine Explosion and Asphyxiations Ducktown, Polk County, Tennessee

January 5, 1943

No. Killed - 9

See more at <http://bit.ly/3655W0Z>. 🔍 👁👁

Forty-two men were in the mine at the time of the explosion, 25 of whom were in the vicinity of the stope. Owing to the reversal of the air currents, 8 men were killed and 17 were injured by fumes on the level below the stope where normally fresh air entered this section of the mine. One of the injured died several days later, making a total of 9 killed.

January 5

Successful Rescue on Jan. 5, 1918 🍺

Barnum Mine Cave-in, Pittston, Pennsylvania — Two cave-ins caused by pillar robbing, covering approximately 5 acres, occurred at the Erie Mining / Pennsylvania Coal Company's Barnum Mine near Duryea, Pennsylvania trapped more than 100 men underground for a period. Two men were killed and 15 injured. Five of the men were rescued — **10 hours** — after the accident. Thomas Huntley, who won the Carnegie Hero Medal for a mine rescue at the PCC No. 14 mine in 1907, lead one of the rescue parties that brought the missing men to the surface. See more at <https://bit.ly/3oYEI0S>. 🔍👁

January 7

Successful Rescue on Jan. 7, 1904 🍺

Silver King Consolidated Mine Rescue, Park City, Utah — Multiple fatalities in the Silver King Consolidated Mine at Park City were prevented through the heroism of Mine Foreman John C. Collins. Twelve men were in the bottom of a shaft. As the men were being lifted up to escape a blast the cage stuck. When the cage stuck, Collins jumped to the bottom of the shaft to cut the fuse. His light went out, and he could do nothing. He climbed back to the cage, where the miners were penned up like rats.

In the top of the cage was a "bonnet" or cover of iron, three-eighths of an inch thick. With a desperate exertion of strength Collins bent back the lid, and despite the heavy spring tension held it open while the miners climbed out to safety. Hogan was the last man to try to leave the cage, except Collins, who made no effort to escape. The blast went off, shattering the cage into junk. That both men were not instantly killed seemed a marvel. Hogan dropped, and was caught by Collins, who succeeded in getting him through the aperture. The heroic foreman was then forced to strip off his clothing before he could himself get through. He then fell, bleeding from the mouth, and unconscious. It was thought he might live. Hogan lost a foot. See more at <https://bit.ly/3v3r5Zc>. 🔍👁

January 7

Commemorating the loss of 100 miners killed in the Osage No. 11 mine explosion in Krebs, Oklahoma. 🕊

Osage Coal and Coke Company Osage No. 11 Mine Explosion Krebs, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma

January 7, 1892

No. Killed - 100

See more at <http://bit.ly/2ThI4kp>. 🔍👁

As no inspector was appointed for Indian Territory, a committee was appointed that determined the explosion came from 1 or 2 shots in entry 0 fired at 5:04 p.m. The shots were badly located and blew out, firing the dust. The roadway was sprinkled, but much fine dust on the ribs and elsewhere carried the explosion to the shaft.

January 7

Successful Rescue on Jan. 7, 1961 🍺

Rescuers saved 15-year-old, Larry Dacek, after falling down an airshaft of the abandoned **Sutro Tunnel silver mine near Virginia City, Nevada**. He was trapped for — **11 hours** — there. Mining experts said Dacek escaped certain death by coming to rest on a rock layer supported by a few rotten timbers. Below him was a straight 1,400-foot fall. See more at <http://bit.ly/2roEgqv>. 🔍👁

January 8

Successful Rescue on Jan. 8, 1908 🍺

Packer Colliery No. 5 Cave-in, Girardville, Pennsylvania — For ten hours

Alexander Donaldson was trapped by a cave-in at the Packer Colliery No. 5 at Girardville, Pennsylvania. Earlier, Donaldson fired a shot at the face of a breast, but as he sought to get away, he fell and was swept down the chute by the rush of coal and dirt freed by the shot. Rescuers found him lying upon his face, with his head pillowed on his arms, conscious but unable to move hand or foot. He was unhurt except for a few bruises. See more at <https://bit.ly/3G60CNx>. 🔍👁

January 9

Successful Rescue on Jan. 9, 1964 🍺

Stanley Johnson was rescued after his — **27-hour entrapment** — following a cave-in at a MacKay, Utah lead and copper mine owned by **Empire Copper Mines**. Johnson suffered only a bad cold following his ordeal. He was rescued by workmen who found an unused and uncharted back entrance to the mine. The rescue operations had nearly been halted by frozen ground and cold temperatures just before the old tunnel was found. The rear entrance led workers to within six feet of the cubicle where Johnson was trapped. There were no others killed or injured in the accident. See more at <http://bit.ly/2ERmduQ>. 🔍👁

January 9

Successful Rescue on Jan. 9, 1928 🍺

Peabody Mine No. 18 Explosion, West Frankfort, Illinois — Eight miners were brought out of the Peabody Coal Company Mine No. 18 alive and uninjured after an **undisclosed period**. They were Bill Reed, Alex Hamlin, Tony Strauss, Charles Peebles, Will Allen, Ruel Parks, Charles Mitchell, and James Benn. Reed crawled out of an air shaft while Hamlin and Strauss were in another part of the mine and built a protecting wall to prevent the deadly gas from reaching them. W. E. Wade, another rescued miner was suffering from the effects of gas. See more at <https://bit.ly/3z61Jd7>. 🔍👁

January 10

The origin of the U. S. Bureau of Mines is rightfully ascribed to the three years leading up to its start (1907 to 1909), when there were 50 coal mine disasters in which 5 or more miners were killed. While not specifically mentioned, the carnage seen from the bungled safety precautions at the Zeigler Coal Company during this period should also be noted.

Zeigler Coal Company
Zeigler Mine Explosion and Fire
Zeigler, Franklin County, Illinois

January 10, 1909

No. Killed - 26

See more at <http://bit.ly/353XsaF>. 🔍👁

Rescuer Deaths 🚒

During recovery efforts following a fire at this mine, marsh gas from the west "C" south entries was carried over an area where the fire had raged, and an explosion occurred which killed 26 men and again wrecked the mine. Earlier, in 2 separate disaster events in this mine, — **80 rescuers** — were killed; **mine explosion on April 3, 1905 (49 dead)**; and a **mine fire on November 3, 1908 (31 dead)**.

January 10

Commemorating the anniversary of the 1940 Bartley No. 1 Mine Explosion in West Virginia. Be sure to listen to the audio linked below from This Week in West Virginia History.

Pond Creek Pocahontas Coal Co. Bartley No. 1 Mine Explosion Bartley, McDowell County, West Virginia

January 10, 1940

No. Killed - 91

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

Audio at <http://bit.ly/2Ca87oS>

At 2:30 p.m. there were 138 men in the mine, when an explosion brought death to 91 of them. The west side of the mine was not affected, and the 37 men working there escaped uninjured. Ten men at the shaft bottoms also escaped. The mine foreman and the others near the bottom of the manway shaft felt a strong rush of air, which had a sound like a fire siren, and dust allayed the air. The men from the west section and from the shaft bottoms were quickly hoisted out.

January 10

On January 10th we commemorate the anniversary of the **19th deadliest metal and nonmetal mine disaster** in the nation.

Haverstraw Clay Pit Collapse Haverstraw, Rockland County, New York

January 10, 1906

No. Killed - 17

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

Rescuer Deaths 🚒

After a house was toppled into a pit cut by clay diggers in Haverstraw, New York, five brave men went to the rescue to aid their neighbors. After the first house fell, twelve other houses went crashing over the precipice. The wreckage quickly caught fire, and those who were in the mass were either crushed or burned to death. Seventeen persons were killed.

January 10

Successful Rescue on Jan. 10, 1924 🍺

Park Place Colliery Cave-in, Lehigh Valley Coal Company — Frank Kasian was released from his prison — **30 hours** — after becoming trapped in Slope No. 7, Park Place Colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company. But the story doesn't end there.

A second miner, John Koszeinik, was still unaccounted for. Rescuers continued their vigil for seventeen days. Koszeinik's body was found five feet from reaching a chute that would have protected him from death. See more at <http://bit.ly/36be0iB>. 🔍👁

January 10

Successful Rescue on Jan. 10, 1910 🍺

Dunkleberger Colliery Cave-in, Trevorton, Pennsylvania — While James Latsha, a coal starter at the Dunkleberger colliery, was at work a sudden rush of coal piled many feet in the chamber containing the workingmen, and when the rush started, he managed to protect himself from being crushed by pressing tight against two big lumps of Anthracite. Coal piled around him, wholly concealing Latsha from view. He remained a prisoner for six hours, when a rescue party drew near him and began drilling a hole to blow the coal away with dynamite. The explosive was inserted in a niche, and the fuse was about to be ignited when somebody saw Latsha's foot sticking out between coal which had parted. They got him loose shortly afterward, badly injured. See more at <https://bit.ly/3f8kT9m>. 🔍👁

January 11

Successful Rescue on Jan. 11, 1917 🍺

No. 14 Pennsylvania Colliery Explosives Detonation, Pittston, Pennsylvania —

Abandoned by his miner following an accident several days earlier, Andrew Marashak, a laborer at No. 14 Pennsylvania colliery, lay in the mine unattended and undiscovered for **eleven hours**. Mine and State authorities investigated and found that the miner, John Kuroski, evidently believed that his laborer had been killed by a tardily fired shot, and thereupon was **so frightened that he fled, not only the mine, but the region**

😬. He had just returned home.

It was understood that Kuroski had warned his laborer not to go back into the mine chamber after a shot had failed to explode. But the laborer went, the charge exploded, and the laborer was partly buried under debris. Kuroski found him prostrate and apparently lifeless. He wrapped a sweater about Marashak's head and then left the mine without notifying anybody.

The accident occurred at 3:30 p.m. It was 2:30 a.m. before a fireboss, making his regular rounds, found the injured man. He was taken home. He had a fractured collar bone and barring the possibility of pneumonia developing because of his long exposure on the damp ground, it was believed he would probably recover. See more at <https://bit.ly/3axLv1K>. 🔍👁

January 11

Successful Rescue on Jan. 11, 1916 🍺

Abandoned Mine Fall of Person, Globe, Arizona — L. Lepi, a miner, was found and rescued by men working at a nearby mining lease after being robbed and thrown down a 40-foot shaft of an abandoned mine — **two days** — earlier. The miner was suffering from bruises of the face and knees, declaring he was nearly famished and that he was minus a \$20 gold piece taken by the robbers. Lepi said that he was attacked by two men. They took his gold, but overlooked \$300 in currency, and then hurled him into the shaft. He called for help frequently throughout the two days. The men who rescued him said they heard a voice yesterday but did not recognize it as a call for help. See more at <https://bit.ly/3fM9GMf>. 🔍👁

January 11

Rescuer Death on Jan. 11, 1914 🧑‍🚒

Cleveland Cliffs Iron Mine Asphyxiation, Negaunee, Michigan — John S.

Barrett died attempting to save Victor A. Erickson from suffocation in the Negaunee iron mine of the Cleveland Cliffs Company at Negaunee, Michigan on January 11, 1914.

During a fire in an iron mine, Erickson, 31, mine timberman, who was wearing an oxygen helmet, was overcome on a level over 700 feet below the surface. Barrett, 44, night mine captain, and a younger man, each wearing an oxygen helmet, went 120 feet through smoke and gas and in darkness to Erickson. They grasped him and dragged him about 70 feet toward a place of safety, going through deep mud as rapidly as they could, then Barrett released his hold on Erickson, called for help, and fell. His companion proceeded to safety alone. Others without helmets made efforts to drag Barrett to fresh air but were unsuccessful.

While these efforts were being made, Barrett requested one man leave him because of the danger to the man. This man was overcome, but he was immediately removed to a place of safety and was revived. Within half an hour a shaft was opened, and the smoke and gas escaped from the mine. Barrett was taken to the surface and was found to be dead. Erickson revived. *John Barrett was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Hero Medal.* See more at <https://bit.ly/3BSDEqu>. 🔍👁

January 12

Rescuer Death on Jan. 12, 1914 🧑‍🚒

E. E. Shumway, 51, president and general manager of the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, died on January 12, 1914, as the result of inhaling poisonous gases while working with rescuers after the **explosion at the Vulcan Mine** on December 17, 1913 at Newcastle, Colorado. See more at <http://bit.ly/33M5zXN>. 🔍👁

January 13

On January 13th we commemorate the anniversary of Eastern Coal's No. 21 Mine Explosion in Wilburton, Oklahoma. It occurred on the 13th of the month, but it wasn't a Friday. 🐱

Eastern Coal and Mining Company
No. 21 Mine Explosion
Wilburton, Latimer County, Oklahoma

January 13, 1926

No. Killed - 91

See more at <http://bit.ly/2CQ2Y34>. 🔍👁

Successful Rescue 🍺

Eight Negro miners were rescued after an **undisclosed period** from the **No. 21 mine in Wilburton, Oklahoma**. And in a truly heroic effort, Julius Graham, one of the first 7 rescued Negroes, rushed back in and saved his stepbrother, Roy Gray.

January 14

Successful Rescue on Jan. 14, 1933 🍺 us

Bootleg Mine Cave-in, Shamokin, Pennsylvania — Buried to his neck when a slide caught him at the bottom of a bootleg mine hole, Charles Zawacki, 38, had a miraculous escape from agonizing death, 40 feet below the surface. Volunteer workers rescued Zawacki alive after — **15 hours'** — laborious shoveling and timbering. The man was taken to the Shamokin State Hospital, where an X-ray examination revealed no broken bones. He was sent to the men's ward, however, to be treated for shock and exposure. Zawacki was digging coal at the bottom of the narrow pit when one side caved in, burying him to his neck. Following the cave-in, a companion went down into the hole and raked the loose dirt and rock away from the entombed man's neck so he could breathe easier. The task of uncovering the man was then begun. See more at <https://bit.ly/2Y3EdzG>. 🔍👁

January 15

Successful Rescue on Jan. 15, 1950 🍺

Bootleg Anthracite Mine Cave-in, Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania — Joseph Burda was rescued after being trapped for — **40 hours** — in a "bootleg" anthracite mine near Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. He and his brother, Edward, became trapped following a cave-in. Edward Burda's body was recovered on January 18th after a five day search. See more at <http://bit.ly/2rs1hru> and <https://bit.ly/39FPI2s>. 🔍👁

January 16

Horrible loss of life on January 16, 1895 — Not a mining company, but a business which owed its existence to serving the needs of area mines near Butte, Montana in the 19th Century.

Butte Hardware Company Explosives Detonation and Fire Butte, Silver Bow County, Montana

January 16, 1895

No. Killed - 57

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

A fire broke out in the Butte Hardware Company's warehouse near Butte, Montana. There was a large quantity of giant powder stored in the building and when the Fire Department was fighting the flames the powder exploded killing every fireman except two. While the dead and wounded were being removed another explosion occurred which killed more persons, including several policemen and citizens. Many persons were torn to fragments and others were shocked to death by the concussion. Later a third explosion occurred increasing the number of deaths and adding to the ruin and devastation.

January 18

Successful Rescue on Jan. 18, 1908 🍺

Giroux Mine Cave-in, Ely, Nevada — After having been entombed for — **46 days** — in the Alpha shaft of the Giroux mine, A. D. Bailey, P. J. Brown, and Fred McDonald were rescued. At 8:30 on the night of January 18, 1908, Bailey was the first to be brought out. Fourteen minutes later, McDonald came to the surface, and ten minutes afterwards, Brown was brought up. Whistles all over the district blew loudly, while crowds cheered in the streets of Ely and every bell in the town was ringing.

On the morning of December 4, 1907, McDonald, Brown, Bailey and two Greeks were working in the bottom of the third compartment shaft, eighty-five feet below the pump station and 1,085 feet below the surface. The cave-in occurred at 9 o'clock. The cable used to haul the cage from the third compartment to the shaft snapped and thousands of tons of rock, debris, and timbers fell into the shaft. From the bottom of

the compartment in which the men were working to the pumping station a distance of eight-five feet a series of rickety ladders offered the only means of escape.

With falling rocks and timbers streaming down upon them the five struggled up these ladders. Halfway up falling timbers knocked the two Greeks from the ladder killing them. At first it was thought that all the men had perished, but **twenty-four hours** after the cave-in the three men who occupied the pumping station managed to make themselves heard by tapping on a pipe that was the means of saving the lives of the three men. See more at <https://bit.ly/3oghlp7>. 🔍👁️

January 19

Honoring the memory of the two miners killed on January 19, 2006, in the Aracoma Coal Company mine fire. See more at <http://bit.ly/2FXrCBg>. 🔍👁️✚

The deceased miners were Don Bragg, 33, a married father of two from Accoville, West Virginia, and Ellery "Elvis" Hatfield, 47, a married father of four from Simon, West Virginia.

Massey Energy Company
Aracoma Coal Company, Inc.
Alma No. 1 Mine Fire
Melville, Logan County, West Virginia
January 19, 2006
No. Killed - 2

January 20

Successful Rescue on Jan. 20, 1955 🧑🚒

Banner Mine Storage Bin Collapse, Tucson, Arizona — Arnulfo Borbon, 22, a pick man at the Banner mine, was buried up to his chin in a loose ore bin yesterday morning. Fast-working crews freed him in **three hours**. He was uninjured. Borbon was standing at the apex of an inverted cone-shaped mass of quarter-inch rock in a bin 20 feet high and 15 feet in diameter. He was knocking rock loose above him for the slide through the bottom of the bin, at his feet, and onto a conveyor belt underneath the bin. An unusually large mass of the ore suddenly slipped down on Borbon's feet, pinning him at the bin bottom before he could step back to a safety area. A resultant

slide buried the miner up to his hips, then, later, up to his chin. See more at <https://bit.ly/3FT3uMV>. 🔍👁

January 21

Rescuer Death on Jan. 21, 1912 🧑‍🚒

John Ferrell of the U.S. Bureau of Mines was killed while exploring a mine in which a fire was raging. Ferrell had overseen the Bureau of Mines Rescue Car No. 5 since October 1911. At a mine rescue a few weeks earlier at Briceville, Tennessee, Ferrell rescued five men. It is unknown if any others were killed or injured in the Cherry Valley Mine Fire. It was later determined that Ferrell was found at the face of a room, lying on his back with his Draeger apparatus helmet off.

Pittsburgh & Eastern Coal Company

Cherry Valley Mine Fire

Cherry Valley, Washington County, Pennsylvania

January 21, 1912

See more at <http://bit.ly/2ZpTmr9>. 🔍👁

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

January 21

Newburg Orrel Coal Company

Orrel Mine Explosion

Newburg, Preston County, West Virginia

January 21, 1886

No. Killed - 39

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

A terrible explosion occurred in the Orrel mine at Newburg, West Virginia resulting in the sudden death of thirty-nine men and boys. At about twenty minutes after 3 p.m., while the day shift was working in the mine, a most tremendous explosion the force threw men down in the street half a mile away, shattered windows and doors all over town, and even crushed the sides of houses around the mouth of the mine, while from

the deep shaft of the colliery, a dense cloud of mingled smoke and vapor arose high in the air. The youngest among the deceased was William Timmons, aged 14.

January 21

Celebrating a mine rescue success story that happened at the Viburnum No. 29 Lead/Zinc Mine in Missouri. US

The Doe Run Company Viburnum No. 29 Mine — Haul Truck Fire and Rescue Viburnum, Washington County, Missouri

January 21, 2010

See more at <http://bit.ly/2B0jESX>. 🔍👁️

Due to a 30-ton haul truck fire, three miners became trapped in the Viburnum No. 29 mine. Rescue teams worked together to save them, applying what they had learned in training to a real-life test of their skills.

The rescue team included six mine rescuers from the Doe Run Company, who entered the mine via a ventilation shaft that was 60 inches wide and 580 feet deep. The trapped miners were successfully extracted with the use of a rescue escape hoist. The duration of the incident was approximately **7 hours**. 🍺🎉

January 21

Successful Rescue on Jan. 21, 1951 🍺

Unnamed Surface Mine Rescue, St. Marys, Pennsylvania — Six-year-old William Van Slander liked to toddle along after his 34-year-old father and watch him rip coal from the earth with a giant bulldozer. Van Slander, Sr. wasn't satisfied with the way his huge machine was working. He got off his seat and kicked at a slowly moving cog. The cog caught in his overalls and started grinding his left leg to pieces.

Frantically, the father shouted at his son to pull the lever which would stop the machine. There were several levers, but Billy got the right one just as his father lost consciousness. The boy then ran three miles to neighbors for aid. Van Slander was taken to a hospital, where his leg was amputated below the knee. The doctors, who

credited Billy with saving his dad's life, said the miner's condition was satisfactory. See more at <http://bit.ly/3bTslVa>. 🔍 👁

January 22

On January 22, 1959, twelve miners died needlessly, and **ALL underground Anthracite mining abruptly ended in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania** due to gross negligence and greed.

Knox Coal Company River Slope Mine Inundation (a.k.a. Knox Mine Disaster) Port Griffith, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

January 22, 1959

No. Killed - 12

See more at <http://bit.ly/2B2y84W>. 🔍 👁

Video - <http://bit.ly/2DbWWxd> 🎬

Successful Rescue 🍺

One miner, Amadeo Pancotti, aged 50, was awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism 🏆 for leading 32 miners to safety. As the flood waters rose, Pancotti scaled a 50-foot sand-stone wall which rose generally at an angle of 75 degrees making his way to the surface. Once there, he summoned others, who raised Louis Randazza, John Elko, and Joseph Soltis from the shaft. A rescue team entered the mine through the shaft and found James LaFratte, Jerome Stuccio, and Pacifico Stella. Twenty-six other men later were located and removed. Twelve miners perished and their bodies never recovered.

It took 3 days to partially plug the hole in the Susquehanna riverbed, which was done by dumping rail cars into the whirlpool formed by the water draining into the mine. Eventually an estimated 10 billion US gallons of water filled the mines. Ten people, including the mine superintendent and August J. Lippi, the president of District 1 of the United Mine Workers, were indicted on a variety of charges, but only 3 (including Lippi) served jail time.

January 22

Successful Rescue on Jan. 22, 2003 🚒

McElroy Mining Company Mine Shaft Explosion, Cameron, West Virginia —

Rescuers clambered into an oversized bucket attached to a crane and were lowered to two injured miners below. They brought out Benjamin Bair and Richard Brumley. They were transported to Pittsburgh's Mercy Hospital. Bair was listed in critical condition with second-degree burns and multiple fractures. Brumley was in serious condition with second-degree burns, puncture wounds and a concussion.

The five rescuers were honored with Carnegie Medals for heroism 🏆 for saving injured workers after the explosion in a mine shaft. They included Sheriff's deputies, Brent Wharry, and Steven Cook; Donald Kline, paramedic; and miners Aaron Meyer and Jack Cain. Three workers were killed in the blast. See more at <http://bit.ly/2B19Doy>. 🔍 👁

January 23

Successful Rescue on Jan. 23, 1984 🚒

Unnamed Mine Cave-in, Sidney, Kentucky — James G. Thornsby rescued Frederick J. Pinson from a cave-in, Sidney, Kentucky on January 23, 1984. Pinson, 31, was seated in the operator's cab of a mining machine when a large section of the roof of the mine in which he was working collapsed atop the machine, trapping him. Thornsby, 25, who had been working nearby, fled the area of the fall. Hearing Pinson's cries for help, Thornsby returned to the edge of the collapsed ceiling, under which there was a narrow space. Despite additionally falling rock, Thornsby crawled into the space and proceeded to clear a path to Pinson. Upon reaching Pinson, Thornsby assisted him from the cab, then crawled with him from beneath the fallen ceiling. Pinson suffered bruised ribs but fully recovered. *Mr. Thornsby was awarded the Carnegie Hero Award for his bravery. 🏆* See more at <https://bit.ly/3qWdwIO>. 🔍 👁

January 24

In memory of the 59 miners lost in 1884 in the Crested Butte mine in Gunnison County, Colorado. 🛐

Colorado Coal and Iron Company Crested Butte Mine Explosion Crested Butte, Gunnison County, Colorado

January 24, 1884

No. Killed - 59

See more at <http://bit.ly/2sHwib0>. 🔍👁

At about 8 o'clock, shortly after the fireboss finished examining the mine and reported to the miners that their working places were free from gas with exception of No. 18 room, No. 2 level, an explosion traversed the mine from that room to the surface.

The fireboss had warned the miner that the brattice leading to the room face was broken near the entry and gas had accumulated. While the fireboss was on the surface gathering materials to repair the brattice, the miner went into the room and nailed up the loose boards. The men were not removed from the return side, and the gas was moved out to the entry where it was ignited by the open lights.

January 25

The Carnegie Hero Fund Project began because of the sacrifice of 2 rescuers that were killed in the Harwick mine in 1904. This disaster is the **9th deadliest coal disaster** in USA history. 🛐

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Allegheny Coal Company Harwick Mine Explosion Cheswick, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

January 25, 1904

No. Killed - 179

See more at <http://bit.ly/2OZL7xd>. 🔍👁

Of 175 mine workers underground at the time, the single survivor was the severely burned 16-year-old, Adolph Gunia. Other casualties included **Daniel A. Lyle** and the mine engineer, **Selwyn M. Taylor**, who both gave their lives in rescue attempts after responding to the scene. Greatly touched by Taylor's and Lyle's sacrifice, Andrew Carnegie had medals privately minted for their families, and within two months had established a \$5 million Carnegie Hero Fund as a result. 🏆

See more about the Hero Fund at <http://bit.ly/2Dy4Z5h>. 🔍👁

January 25

Lost miner located on January 25, 1901 🍷

Joseph Fhinol, 17, was located after being lost without food or water for — **six days** — in the **O. S. Johnson mine at Dunmore, Pennsylvania**. Fhinol was a greenhorn to this mine, having previously worked there for only a day. As many as 200 men and even dogs participated in the search for Fhinol and all types of noise making devices were used in the effort. His examining physician found him to be in good condition and was confident he would improve if he followed his prescribed diet. See more at <http://bit.ly/3mqLy2S>. 🔍👁

January 25

Successful Rescue on Jan. 25, 1950 🍷

Lohb Coal Company Mine Asphyxiation, Pottsville, Pennsylvania — Two miners were rescued from the end of a 100-foot, almost perpendicular, slope yesterday at Pottsville after they had been overcome by "after damp." Albert Galesky, 50, was rescued shortly after the pair were discovered unconscious by another miner. But it was nearly — **four hours** — before Joseph Flannery, 48, was revived enough to be moved down the slope and the 2½ miles to the mine entrance. Nine tanks of oxygen were used before the rescuers decided it was safe to lower Flannery down the slope to a coal car. Flannery was taken to Warren Hospital in Pottsville and placed in an oxygen tent. Al Clarkson, superintendent of the mine operation of the Lohb Coal Company on Sharp mountain, said Flannery and Galesky apparently went into the area too soon after setting off a shot of dynamite. See more at <https://bit.ly/3EVJZ5V>.



January 25

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the McClintock Mine Explosion in Illinois

Crerar-Clinch Coal Company

McClintock Mine Explosion

Johnston City, Williamson County, Illinois

January 25, 1924

No. Killed - 33

See more at <https://bit.ly/401jMyQ>. 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue 🧑‍🚒

Nine injured miners were removed by rescuers after an undisclosed period following an explosion in the McClintock mine which killed 33. Eight of the injured were hospitalized. Two were believed to be fatally hurt.

"The saddest incident of the explosion was in the home of Mrs. Jesse Kaplinger, whose husband was killed in a mine twelve years ago. His death left the widow with seven small children, and she struggled valiantly to raise and educate them. Yesterday's explosion claimed the bread winners — Wilson, 19 and Clyde, 17."

January 26

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Lancashire No. 18 Mine Explosion in Pennsylvania

Barnes and Tucker Coal Company

Lancashire No. 18 Mine Explosion

Shanktown, Indiana County, Pennsylvania

January 26, 1924

No. Killed - 36

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

(From Bureau of Mines report by J. W. Paul)

About 3:00 p.m., when the explosion happened, there were 47 men in the mine; 36 were killed and 11 escaped unhurt. The explosion originated at an aircourse face, where a "flameproof" mining machine had ignited gas.

Twelve men in 6th right felt the concussion and 11 escaped by a surface opening. One man went to the main slope and died there. All of the men in the gassy section beyond 6th right were killed where they were; the others died from afterdamp.

January 26

Successful Rescue on Jan. 26, 1953 📄

Abandoned Mine Fall of Person, Lordsburg, Nevada — A 15-year-old high school boy was recovering from several broken bones and assorted bruises after miraculously surviving a fall down a 330-foot mine shaft. Ray Harrington received a broken collarbone, broken arm, and broken leg when he tumbled down the abandoned Nevada mine shaft. Rescuers attributed his survival to the fact that the shaft had a jog in it about midway down. This, they say, may have broken his fall. See more at <https://bit.ly/3rLJnep>. 🔍👁

January 27

On January 27th we commemorate the anniversary of the **25th deadliest coal mine disaster** in the United States.

H. C. Frick Coal and Coke Company

Mammoth No. 1 Mine Explosion

Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

January 27, 1891

No. Killed - 109

See more at <http://bit.ly/2ASTO3r>. 🔍👁

The primary cause was firedamp, mostly, if not all, generated by the fall of No. 3 flat, intensified by coal dust. Fully 75% of the persons killed were smothered by afterdamp. The quantity of the gas fired was not large. The rescuing parties discovered fires smoldering in several places, but with tubs of water were soon extinguished.

January 28

Successful Rescue on Jan. 28, 1909 🧰

Barnard Mine Cave-in, Saginaw, Michigan — After receiving the full force of 1,000 pounds of falling slate on his back and being buried completely beneath the heavy debris, John Winship, a miner employed in the Barnard coal mine, was rescued alive and had a fair chance to recover. Winship, in company with another miner was working about a mile from the main shaft of the Barnard mine, when without warning the roof over their heads came tumbling down. Winship was stooping over at the time wielding his pick and half a ton of slate struck him squarely on the back. His companion, Fred Ferham, who was standing but a few feet away, escaped without a scratch and hastily summoned aid from other parts of the mine. Winship was extricated unconscious and taken to St. Mary's hospital where he later revived. It was not believed any bones were broken and if serious internal injuries did not develop Winship was expected to recover. See more at <https://bit.ly/3H3TD8m>. 🔍👁

January 29

Honoring the 84 miners killed in the **34th deadliest coal mine disaster** in US history.



**White Oak Fuel Company
Stuart Mine Explosion
Stuart, Fayette County, West Virginia**

January 29, 1907

No. Killed - 84

See more at <http://bit.ly/2RoCY8w>. 🔍👁

On the day of the explosion, from testimony given, it was apparent that there were about 100 persons employed within the mine, but just prior to the explosion two cage loads of men were taken out of the mine, leaving about 85 or more persons within the mine at the instant of the explosion, all of whom were killed.

The mere fact that at the time of the explosion there were 85, or more, men within the mine does not account for the occurrence of the disaster, but such a number being within the mine was in violation of law. For a similar violation the officers of the

operating company were at the time under indictment in the criminal court of Fayette county.

January 30

Successful Rescue on Jan. 30, 1907 🍺 us

After being imprisoned for — **nearly two days** — in an old coal mine near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, John Stevens managed to dig himself out and drag himself to his home. He was at work in the old mine when he found himself hemmed in by fallen material all around. With nothing but a shovel handle, he managed to dig through the wall of coal. He fainted from exhaustion repeatedly and was scarcely able to drag himself to his home. Searching parties had been looking for him. See more at

<http://bit.ly/3p3mqkB> 🔍 👁

January 31

Honoring the memory of the 75 miners killed in the Primero Mine in 1910. ✚

Colorado Fuel and Iron Company Primero Mine Explosion Primero, Las Animas County, Colorado

January 31, 1910

No. Killed - 75

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

The source of the ignition was not determined but may have been the detonation of detonators and explosives by a fall of roof, igniting dust and carried through the mine by gas and dust.