

Famous August Mining Incidents

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1 – Kathleen	12 – Aloysius Brennan	20 – Gerald Becker
2 – East Brookside	12 – Hudson Zinc	21 – Issaquah No. 4
3 – Badger Mine	13 – Sheppton	24 – William Kitt
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August 1

August has produced **49 mine disasters** with 5 or more fatalities.

See more at <http://bit.ly/3905wdR> 🔍👁

The top **5 deadliest disasters** were:

Frontier (WY) — 99 dead

West Kentucky (KY) — 62 dead

Argonaut (CA) — 47 dead

Clymer (PA) — 44 dead



Franklin (WA) — 37 dead

August Mine Disaster Calendar 📅

Be sure to visit our August 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/3bpFuTw> 🔍👁

August 1

Rescuer Deaths on August 1, 1936

During the time the State mine rescue team was erecting seals outby the fire in the Kathleen mine, several motor trips of material were sent into the 7th north haulage road which is on the return for this section. With these trips, there were between 15 and 20 men, who had been sent to assist with the sealing. All these men were more or less affected with carbon monoxide; nine of them lost their lives. See more at <http://bit.ly/2ZsBWdF>  

Union Collieries Company


Kathleen Mine Fire

Dowell, Jackson County, Illinois

August 1, 1936

No. Killed – 9

August 2

In memory of the twenty miners, including 5 brave rescuers, killed in 1913 at the East Brookside mine at Tower City, Pennsylvania. 

Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company

East Brookside Mine Explosions

Tower City, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania

August 2, 1913

No. Killed - 20

See more at <http://bit.ly/2v5UbHI>  

Rescuer Deaths

Five miners met their death when they entered the East Brookside Anthracite mine following an explosion there. While attempting to rescue victims of the first blast, a second methane explosion occurred, sealing their fate. The first explosion, believed to be caused by dynamite, killed 15 miners. One of the rescuers managed to escape but died a few hours later.

August 3

Successful Rescue on August 3, 1932 🍺

Abandoned Badger Mine Fall of Person, Little Lost River, Idaho — Ole Meddaugh, 50, Little Lost River miner, was suffering from an imprisonment of — **six days and nights** — in an abandoned mine shaft 45 miles east of Arco, Idaho. He was rescued in a weakened condition after his continued absence had given rise to fears for his safety. A week earlier Meddaugh lowered himself with a rope for 60 feet into the abandoned shaft of the Badger mine and descended the remaining 40 feet to the bottom of the shaft on timbers. When he attempted to ascend the timbers gave way and he saved himself from dropping to the bottom by hanging to a projecting rock. Since he was unable to reach the dangling end of the rope, he found a seat on a rock and waited for help to arrive. See more at

<https://bit.ly/3fKtzCW> 🔍 👁

August 4

Commemorating the loss of 62 miners in the West Kentucky No. 7 mine explosion.



West Kentucky Coal Company
West Kentucky No. 7 Mine Explosion
Clay, Webster County, Kentucky

August 4, 1917

No. Killed - 62

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

Successful Rescue 🍺

About 7:30 a.m., when most of the men were traveling to their working places, an explosion caused the death of 62 persons and the injury of 3 others. Forty-six had been brought to the surface alive after **3½ hours**. Of the rescued, 24 were uninjured, and the remainder were suffering from burns, none of which were said to be serious.

August 5

Los 33 — Here's one astonishingly successful mine rescue none of us will ever forget! On August 5, 2010, a major collapse was experienced in the **San Jose Copper Mine near Copiapo, Chile** leaving 33 miners trapped 2,300 feet from the

surface. For the next **69 days**, working around the clock, rescuers worked feverishly to get them out safely. On October 13th, all 33 of the miners were pulled from the mine in a rescue capsule designed and built by the Chilean Navy. This rescue came following the **longest period of entrapment on record**. See more at <http://bit.ly/36Poaov> 🔍 👁️ 😬

August 6

In memory of the 9 miners killed in the Crandall Canyon Mine in 2007 over a span of ten days. 🛑

Genwal Resources, Inc. and Murray Energy Corporation

Crandall Canyon Mine Collapse

Huntington, Emery County, Utah

August 6, 2007 – 6 killed

August 16, 2007 – 3 rescue workers killed

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

Video Tribute — <http://bit.ly/2qGLQr5> 🎥 👁️

Rescuer Deaths 🛑

On August 16, 2007, three rescue workers were killed and six others were injured when a seismic jolt caused a mine accident during an effort to reach six men who have been trapped at the Crandall Canyon Mine since August 6. The six men initially killed were Kerry Allred, Luis Hernandez, Carlos Payan, Don Erikson, Manuel Sanchez, and Brandon Phillips. The three killed during the attempted rescue were Federal Mine Inspector, **Gary Jensen, Brandon Kimber, and Dale Black**.

August 6

In recognition of the successful rescue following the devastating loss of life at the Derby No. 3 mine at Big Stone Gap, Virginia in 1934. 🛑

Stonega Coke and Coal Company

Derby No. 3 Mine Explosion

Big Stone Gap, Wise County, Virginia

August 6, 1934

No. Killed – 17

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

Successful Rescue 🍺

After an **undisclosed period** following the 7 a.m. explosion, two men, Lawrence Fleener and Walter Bayless, were brought out alive and were taken to the Stonega hospital for treatment. Artificial respiration was resorted to in vain efforts to save some of the others.

August 7

Unspeakable devastation and carnage following the premature detonation of explosives at the Bowen mine. †

Bowen Mine Explosives Detonation Bowen, Las Animas County, Colorado

August 7, 1902

No. Killed – 13

See more at <http://bit.ly/38BrhS7> 🔍 👁

No gas had ever been known in the mine and it was the opinion of the officers that the accident was caused by a premature shot. The powder house at the mouth of the mine containing about **one thousand pounds of powder** was exploded by the shock from the mine and great damage was done at the mouth of the slope. The town of Bowen, about a quarter of a mile below the mine, was severely shaken, several windows being broken.

August 7

Successful Rescue on August 7, 1963 🍺

Abandoned Mine Fall of Person, Pittsburg, California — Ronald Buffo, 15, was pulled safely out of a 65-foot mine shaft Wednesday after spending over an hour on his back, looking up at "that little hole in the sky." He suffered minor injuries. Two friends lowered him into the shaft with a rope. It broke when he was halfway down, dropping him to soft ground at the shaft bottom. Two Pacific Gas and Electric Co. linemen climbed down and rescued him **several hours** later. "It was pretty gruesome," Buffo confided while recovering at his Pittsburg home. "I was knocked out, I guess, and then I woke up, I was lying on my back, and I looked up and all I could see was that little hole in the sky." See more at <https://bit.ly/3MFSGqE>



August 8

Successful Rescue on August 8, 1900 🍺

Parrott Mine Fire, Butte, Montana — The shaft house of the Parrott mine was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$100,000. The mine was 1,600 feet deep, and 200 men were underground. They were rescued through the levels of an adjoining mine after an **undisclosed period**. The shaft, it was feared, was badly damaged. The property was owned by the Parrott Copper and Silver Mining Company, which was one of the corporations controlled by the Amalgamated Copper Company. See more at <https://bit.ly/43csXNF> 🔍 👁

August 9

Successful Rescue on August 9, 1899 🍺

Valley Mine Fall of Person, Bessemer, Michigan — While repairing a steam pipe in the Valley mine from a bucket which was 120 feet down a shaft, Fred Albert was scalded and was compelled to catch the under strap of the bucket. He hung on with one hand until he reached within twenty feet of the top, when he called to his partner that he was unable to hold on any longer. His partner in the bucket was unable to give him assistance. Albert had to let go and he dropped to the bottom of the shaft into about six feet of water, a fall of 320 feet, without serious injury. When a rescue party went down after what they supposed to be his remains, they were surprised to find him with his head above water. See more at <https://bit.ly/3qHlcKk> 🔍 👁

August 10

Successful Rescue on August 10, 1925 🍺

Tilden Mine Cave-in, Bessemer, Michigan — After being buried under a slide of earth and rock for nearly **ten hours**, Suvie Guianni, 34, was rescued from the Tilden mine. He became trapped while attempting to reach Adolph Stencer, who had been crushed to death in an earlier slide. Guianni was engaged in removing the fallen earth from Stencer's body when the second slide occurred. Everyone but Guianni jumped in time to escape. See more at <https://bit.ly/33SLqVR> 🔍 👁

August 11

Successful Rescue on August 11, 1904 🍺

Lykens Valley Coal Mine Cave-in, Wiconisco, Pennsylvania — Frank Paul was completely buried in a mass of coal which fell down upon him while he was working in what is known as the Little Vein of the Lykens Valley Coal Company and was so terribly bruised that he was unable to move. Morris Woest and William Plark were working with Paul, when suddenly coal from only a few feet above him came down and covered every portion of his body. His two companions were uninjured by the cave-in and were able to render him immediate assistance and succeeded in extricating his body after an **undisclosed period** before he was suffocated. See more at <https://bit.ly/3lopGA8> 🔍 👁

August 12

Successful Rescue on August 12, 1926 🍺

Hudson Zinc and Spar Mine Cave-in, Salem, Kentucky — Five miners were trapped for — **six days and seven nights** — by a cave-in at the Hudson Zinc and Spar Mine near Salem, Kentucky. Rescuers worked through much difficulty to free the men who were mostly affected by the cold and their thirst. The 5 rescued miners included **Randolph Cobb, Roy James, George Catillo, U. B. Wilson, and Harry Watson**. Underground prayer meetings had caused conversion of last man, read the New York Times headline on August 12, 1926. All were ready to die. "If we are dead when you find us, we are saved," was written on their cloth caps. See more at <https://bit.ly/3ii5khC> 🔍 👁

August 12

Successful Rescue on August 12, 1940 🍺

Bootleg Anthracite Mine Cave-in, Heckscherville, Pennsylvania — Aloysius A. Brennan, 19, was rescued alive from a collapsed bootleg mine hole, and when he arrived at the surface following the rescue it was found he had escaped with a minor hip injury. Brennan and a brother, Leo, 16, drove a 20-foot shaft into a vein on an abandoned stripping operation at Pine Knot Colliery. The elder brother was working alone at the bottom of the shaft when the place collapsed. Rescuers were summoned from other independent mines and after — **two hours** — the workers removed sufficient debris to release the young miner. See more at <https://bit.ly/3rzarxi> 🔍 👁

August 13

Rescuer Deaths on August 13, 1936 🧑‍🚒

Mountain City Mine Asphyxiations, Mountain City, Nevada — Two men persuaded a third to lower them to an area of dangerous atmospheric conditions. The third man realized the seriousness of the situation but gave little or no thought to the atmospheric conditions. He proceeded down the manway until he was overcome and fell to the bottom. A fourth man, in a solitary attempt to rescue the third, was overcome and fell to within 5 feet of the bottom. When the shift boss and four others arrived, they attempted to recover the bodies. Two men were lowered in the bucket, and both were overcome. It occurred on the 13th of the month, but it wasn't a Friday. 🐱 See more at <http://bit.ly/34Yg7DG> 🔍 👁

August 13

On August 13th we commemorate the anniversary of the **Famous Sheppton Mine Rescue**. ✚

The Famous Sheppton Mine Rescue
Oneida No. 2 Slope Cave-in
Oneida, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania

August 13, 1963

No. Killed - 1

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

Audio: Sheppton Mine Rescue at <http://bit.ly/2KTWcw7> 🎧
by J. Ronnie Sando / RJ Coltin

Successful Rescue 🍺

David Fellin and Henry Throne were trapped for — **14 days** — in the Sheppton Mine in the Pennsylvania Anthracite coal region following a cave-in. In the early hours of Tuesday, Aug. 27, 1963, first Throne, then Fellin were pulled from a depth of 330 feet to the surface wearing parachute harnesses and football helmets. A third miner in the mine at the time, Lou Bova, was never recovered. It occurred on the 13th of the month, but it wasn't a Friday. 🐱

August 13

Successful Rescue on August 13, 1911 🍺

Bast Colliery Cave-in, Big Mine Run, Pennsylvania — After working without cessation for — **48 hours** —, two or the three men imprisoned in the East Holmes Gangway of the Bast Colliery at Big Mine Run, near Ashland, were rescued alive. The rescued miners are John Dolan and Anthony Tamashitos. The third man, Peter Zemonskie was buried beneath the fallen rock which had imprisoned the three men at the face of the gangway. He was dead. Dolan and Tamashitos were uninjured. The men said they could hear the muffled sounds of the work of the rescuers which grew more distinct as they approached nearer to the small place where they were imprisoned. They knew nothing of their missing companion, Peter Zemonskie, who was probably killed outright by the first fall of top coal. The men had been in the mine 50 hours. It occurred on the 13th of the month, but it wasn't a Friday. 🐱 See more at <https://bit.ly/2V7UUIt> 🔍 👁

August 14

In honor of the 99 miners killed in the **27th deadliest coal mine disaster** in the U. S. history. ✚

Kemmerer Coal Company

Frontier No. 1 Mine Explosion

Kemmerer, Lincoln County, Wyoming

August 14, 1923

No. Killed - 99

See more at <http://bit.ly/2qKhx2q> 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue 🍺

At 5 o'clock rescuers found a man lying in the main slope who was nearing death from inhalation of smoke and gas fumes. He was revived and taken to a hospital. A short time later, two men who had hidden in a remote corner of a room off the main slope were taken to the surface, apparently not suffering greatly. Another man, found further in along the main slope, showed signs of life when rescuers reached him, but when doctors attempted to revive him, it was found that he had died.

August 15

Rescuer Deaths on August 15, 1985 🚒

R & R Mine No. 3 Carbon Monoxide Suffocation, Woodbine, Kentucky —

Loading and hauling coal after a shot throughout the afternoon, a miner was overcome by Carbon Monoxide when his scoop became stuck in the face area. Two others attempting to save the fallen miner were also overcome. See more at

<http://bit.ly/2sn5Q6Q> 🔍 👁

August 16

In memory the **9 miners killed in the Crandall Canyon Mine** in 2007 over a span of ten days. ☠

Genwal Resources, Inc. and Murray Energy Corporation

Crandall Canyon Mine Collapse

Huntington, Emery County, Utah

August 6, 2007 - 6 killed

August 16, 2007 - 3 rescue workers killed

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

Rescuer Deaths 🚒

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more at <http://bit.ly/2qGKYmj> 🔍 👁

Video Tribute - <http://bit.ly/2qGLQr5> 🎥 👁

August 17

This mine hoisting disaster provides the dreadful details of what happened when the hoist engineer unintentionally sent the cage the wrong way, hoisting it to the automatic dump instead of lowering it into the shaft. See more at

<http://bit.ly/2x7QDZp> 🔍 👁

Sonman Shaft Coal Company

Sonman Mine Hoisting Disaster Sonman, Cambria County, Pennsylvania

August 17, 1907

No. Killed – 5

August 17

Join us in the celebration of this year's **50th anniversary of the creation of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy** in Beaver, West Virginia.

The national mine academy **opened on August 17, 1976**. See more at <https://bit.ly/3J7nA7o> 🔍 👁

The National Mine Health and Safety Academy is the world's largest educational institution devoted solely to safety and health in mining. The Academy serves as the central training facility for federal mine inspectors, mine safety professionals from other government agencies, the mining industry, and labor.

Listen: Audio File - <http://bit.ly/2O4kqpD> 🎧

August 18

Honoring the memory of the 18 miners killed in a La Veta, Colorado mine. ✚

Oakdale Mine Explosion La Veta, Huerfano County, Colorado

August 18, 1919

No. Killed – 18

See more at <http://bit.ly/3cl3Eii> 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue on August 18, 1919 🍺

One man was rescued alive in the Oakdale mine near LaVeta, which was wrecked by an explosion. William Davis, a miner, was brought out by rescue crews after an **undisclosed period** and resuscitated. Eighteen miners were killed in the incident. Source document at <https://bit.ly/3gn2QgT> 🔍 👁

August 18

Successful Rescue on August 18, 2008 🍺

Abandoned Gold Mine Rescue, Sonora, California — Darvis Lee, Jr., 34, was rescued from an abandoned gold mine after tumbling more than 100 feet and spending — **two nights** — at the bottom of the dark shaft. Lee fell down the shaft while exploring the mine. See more at <https://bit.ly/3uecwS9> 🔍👁

August 19

Successful Rescue on August 19, 1921 🍺

Gibbons Mine Cave-in, South Scranton, Pennsylvania — Mathew Schrader was held prisoner for over — **six hours** — after a cave-in occurred in the mine workings of the Gibbons Coal Company in South Scranton. Schrader directed the work of rescue telling his comrades where to dig. He was removed to a hospital where it was said he was not seriously injured. See more at <https://bit.ly/3AhOqac> 🔍👁

August 20

Successful Rescue on August 20, 1962 🍺

Abandoned Gold Mine Fall of Person, Hill City, South Dakota — Airman Gerald Becker spent — **3½ days** — trapped in an abandoned gold mine pit near here. Becker, 18, of Mapleton, Minn., had the night off from his duties as a mechanic at nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base and decided to go swimming in Sheridan Lake. "But it was too cold, and I started exploring instead," said Becker at the base hospital, where he was under observation. "I came across this big hole. Suddenly the edge gave way and I fell 50 feet to the bottom." After recovering from the initial shock, Becker looked for a hold on the shale and slate walls to enable him to climb out but found none. Then he started shouting for help. Early Monday the vacationing Pete Ptacek family from Phoenix, Ariz., stopped in the area to let their children exercise. Becker, with his very hoarse throat, heard them and called out. Ptacek hurried to a cabin resort near the lake for help. Two forestry men, a rancher and Ptacek returned to the pit with a rope, and with it tied around his waist Becker made his way up the sheer wall. See more at <https://bit.ly/33PPuWF> 🔍👁

August 21

Five miners were smothered to death in the Issaquah No. 4 mine. A brush fire spread to the mouth of an air shaft, ignited the timbers, and was sucked down by the ventilation fan into the workings where 80 men were employed. See more at <http://bit.ly/2TjegH1> 🔍 👁

Issaquah No. 4 Mine Asphyxiations **Issaquah, King County, Washington**

August 21, 1900

No. Killed – 5

August 24

Successful Rescue on August 24, 1899 🍺

South Hecla Mine Fall of Person, Calumet, Michigan — William Kitti fell down the shaft at the South Hecla of the Calumet & Hecla company and fractured his skull all the way around. Strange to say, although the entire brain was exposed, Kitti lived. He was taken to the hospital and his wounds dressed, the skull placed back in position and the physicians claimed that, unless a severe type of brain fever sets in, he would recover. He was resting nicely. See more at <https://bit.ly/3rOXluY> 🔍 👁

August 24

In memory of the 37 miners killed in the Franklin mine fire in Washington state in 1894. See more at <http://bit.ly/2x1FBEU> 🔍 👁

Oregon Improvement Company **Franklin Mine Fire** **Franklin, King County, Washington**

August 24, 1894

No. Killed - 37

The fire originated in breast 62 of the north sixth level and the exact cause was not determined. It was thought that the origin was spontaneous combustion caused by refuse and screenings in the bottom of the breast slacking and catching fire. It is suggested that possibly the fire had been burning for some time, perhaps 2 or 3 days and from a smoldering blaze, it all at once became a burning furnace.

August 24

Successful Rescue on August 24, 1936 🍺

Unnamed Mine Fire, Downieville, California — A faithful dog ran 900 feet through a fire and smoke-filled tunnel and attracted two miners to the entrance where flames which soon would have trapped them were raging. The miners, Joseph Stark and his son, Herman, left a fire in the stove in their quarters in the mine mill before they entered the tunnel. The stove pipe became hot and ignited dry timbers. The dog ran through the blaze into the tunnel and barked until he summoned the two men. See more at <https://bit.ly/3B3tG6g> 🔍 👁

August 25

Rescuer Death on August 25, 1919 🧯

James S. Cunningham, foreman miner of Bureau of Mines rescue car No. 2, died while wearing a Salvus ½-hour apparatus in a gasoline storage tank of the **Sinclair Oil & Refining Company, Trinidad, Colorado**. See more at <http://bit.ly/2MyvQTD> 🔍 👁

For more information regarding fatalities related to self-contained breathing apparatus, visit <https://bit.ly/3Q0XmuB> 🔍 👁

August 26

Honoring the memory of the 29 killed in this mine fire in Haileyville, Oklahoma. See more at <http://bit.ly/2x7bOea> 🔍 👁

Hailey-Oklahoma No. 1 Mine Fire **Haileyville, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma**

August 26, 1908

No. Killed - 29

A barrel of oil at the bottom of the hoisting shaft was set on fire while one of the men was in the act of dividing it among the men for use. Instantly a sheet of flames enveloped the shaft base, and, in a minute, dense volumes of smoke were escaping to the surface. In half an hour the crackle and roar of the underground flames told a horrible story of death and destruction to everything inflammable.

August 26

Successful Rescue on August 26, 1947 🍺

John McNulty Mine Slide, Owensboro, Kentucky — Two men were trapped in a slide at the John McNulty coal mine, formerly the old Lee Rudy mine, five miles west of Owensboro. William Hays, 33, and Tom Gray, 61, the two men trapped in the mine, were at work cleaning a path toward the new shaft when the main shaft curb gave way. They were the only men in the mine at the time of the accident. An alarm was sounded, and a rescue squad was organized and succeeded in getting the two men back to safety within the space of **an hour**. A motorized winch was dispatched to the mine and the men removed through the new shaft on an improvised swing chair. Neither man suffered any ill effects from their ordeal.

Later, the rescue squad was successful in bringing the mine pony to safety.

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

August 27

Commemorating the loss of 47 miners in the 1922 Argonaut Gold Mine Fire.

Argonaut Mining Company

Argonaut Gold Mine Fire

Jackson, Amador County, California

August 27, 1922

No. Killed – 47

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

The fire in the main shaft of the Argonaut gold mine trapped 47 miners 4,650 feet below ground in the summer of 1922. It took rescuers three weeks to get to where the miners were trapped by the fire as family members and friends, co-workers, the press, and countless Americans awaited word of the foregone conclusion.

August 27

Honoring the 18 miners killed in the Cane Creek Mine Explosion in 1963.

Texas Gulf Sulphur Company

Potash Division

Cane Creek Mine Explosion

Moab, Grand County, Utah

August 27, 1963

No. Killed - 18

See more at <http://bit.ly/2t9Bh47> 🔍 👁

Successful Rescue 🧑‍🚒

Three men erected a barricade near the face of 2 south and died behind it. Seven other men erected a barricade in 3U drift; 2 of these men left the barricade and traveled to the shaft station where they were met by a rescue crew and brought to the surface at 11:55 a.m., August 28, about — **19 hours** — after the explosion occurred.

The other 5 men remained behind the barricade until a recovery crew contacted them and they reached the surface without assistance at 6:30 p.m., August 29, about — **50 hours** — after the explosion. A surface employee received minor injuries and was hospitalized.

August 28

In memory of the 28 miners killed in the Sayreton No. 2 mine explosions in Alabama 76 years ago. This disaster has eerie similarities with the 2001 Jim Walter No. 5 mine disaster in the same state.

Republic Steel Corporation

Sayreton No. 2 Mine Explosions

Sayreton, Jefferson County, Alabama

August 28, 1943

No. Killed - 28

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

Rescuer Deaths

About 12:40 a.m., August 29th, or 2½ hours after the first explosion, a second explosion occurred in the same area, at which time there were 18 members of a rescue party in the affected section. Two men of the rescue party were killed and 16 were injured. Eight of the sixteen injured died after being removed to the hospital. Total number of deaths from the second explosion was 10.

August 30

Heroes in the mining industry can be found around every corner. Here's one uncovered from a 1917 Minnesota mine fire.

Lincoln Mine Fire

Virginia, Saint Louis County, Minnesota

August 30, 1917

See more at <http://bit.ly/2NNUD4o>  

Frank Mattson became a self-made hero when he was lowered down into a burning shaft of the Lincoln mine and without mask and single handed rescued two of his fellow miners, Oscar Pakkala, and Joe Reinshe, who had been overcome by the smoke. Mattson found the victims near the flames and carried both to the surface. All three were revived by a pulmotor. Mattson's record will go down in the history of mining industry as the greatest hero of the Mesaba mine.

The fire broke out in the exits of Lincoln mine and had trapped 200 miners. All escaped but the two rescued by Mattson. The mine has now been successfully blocked and closed and as water cannot be obtained, the operator's plan to smother the flames in the timber workings.