

Two found dead in abandoned coal mine in Buchanan County

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<https://www.wjhl.com/news/local/two-found-dead-in-abandoned-coal-mine-in-buchanan-county/>

Buchanan County, Va. (WJHL) — Two people were found dead inside an abandoned coal mine in Buchanan County, according to authorities.

The Buchanan County Sheriff's Office said the bodies of **Jerry Chambers**, 49, of Jewell Ridge, Virginia, and **Jerry Orville Jenks**, 53, of Paynesville, West Virginia, were located around 10:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Shortly after midnight, the sheriff's office had responded to a report of two missing men in the Spruce Pine section of the county. Initial information indicated that the two men had possibly entered an abandoned drift mine on Spruce Pine Road.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Virginia Department of Energy were contacted for assistance.

Mine rescue teams from the Department of Energy and Coronado Mine Rescue responded to search the mine. The bodies were located and confirmed to be the two missing men.

The bodies were taken to the chief medical examiner in Roanoke for autopsies.

The sheriff's office said the investigation remained ongoing, but foul play was not suspected.