

West Deer Mine Collapse Kills One, Hurts 2nd

A Springdale miner was killed and another seriously injured when a section of the roof collapsed in Republic Steel Corp.'s Russellton Mine, West Deer Twp., the coroner's office said.

George Matthews, 54, of 155 Center St. was dead on arrival yesterday in the mine's dispensary after he had been dug out by other miners.

Gerald Durkac, 29, of Russellton, operator of the continuous mining machine on which Matthews was a helper, was listed in fair condition at Allegheny Valley Hospital, Natrona Heights.

According to a coroner's report, the accident occurred about 1:30 p.m. and Matthews was pronounced dead at 3 p.m., indicating the men were trapped at least an hour.