

April 18, 1895; Blue Canyon Mine, Lake Whatcom, Wash.; 23 Killed

(From State mine inspector's report, 1895, pp. 10-12)

Between 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon an explosion killed 23 of the 25 men in the mine. * * * A hole drilled in the bottom rock had been charged with giant powder and fired.

The hole was poorly directed and did not break * * *, but the blast ignited gas and dust. * * * the explosion was not widespread, and the men died mainly from asphyxiation. * * * gas was evident in quantity and under pressure in the strata.

Most of the men descended to the gangway and were overcome there.