

December 17, 1924; Burnett Mine, Burnett, Wash.; 7 Killed

(From Bureau of Mines consultant report, by Geo. Watson Evans)

A night shift of 8 men had gone in at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. At 6:00 p.m. an explosion in the gangway at No. 6 chute killed 7 and injured 1 of this crew.

The explosion was local in character, and while coal dust was stirred up and burned at the point of origin, the rapid release of pressure prevented propagation.

Most of those killed were suffocated. A large fall of roof in No. 6 pillar forced gas down into the gangway where it was ignited by a locomotive that was pulling a rope to hoist timbers up No. 9 chute and was "arcing and sparking near No. 6 chute." These conditions of gas and open equipment were usual in the mines of the district. Electric cap lamps were used, and the haulageways were sprinkled every other day.

Rescue crews removed the injured man and the bodies within a short time.