

COAL FATAL

1924 0001

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF MINES
BY D. HARRINGTON

SUBJECT: Explosion, Loomis Mine of the Glen Alden Coal Corporation, Nanticoke, PA., June 6, 1924.

An explosion occurred at 11:45 a.m., June 6, 1924, at the Loomis Mine of the Glen Alden Coal Corporation, near Nanticoke, PA., resulting in the death of fourteen men and the slight injury of six others.

A body of gas was allowed to accumulate during the time a door was being removed and replaced. When the new door was placed, the gas was moved along the return airway and was ignited by a miner while attempting to light a cigarette. In the locality of what appeared to be the origin of the explosion were found some burned matches and several cigarettes near the body of a miner. In nearby localities cigarettes, pipes and matches were found in the jackets of men's jumpers.

This is an extremely gassy mine, liberating over four and a half million cubic feet of methane per twenty-four hours, and is one which too many precautions cannot be taken. From the amount of smoking material found, it is apparent that discipline was not enforced as to smoking at least.

This is another one of the numerous explosions resulting while moving a body of gas and is evidence that such practice is extremely dangerous, when the shift is in the mine.

14 K

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1927.

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

To the members of the Safety Service and Mining Research Divisions:

An explosion occurred at 11:45 A.M., June 6, 1924 at the Loomis Mine of the Glen Alden Coal Corporation, near Nanticoke, Pa., resulting in the death of fourteen men and the slight injury of six others.

A body of gas was allowed to accumulate during the time a door was being removed and replaced. When the new door was placed, the gas was moved along the return airway and was ignited by a miner while attempting to light a cigarette. In the locality of what appeared to be the origin of the explosion were found some burned matches and several cigarettes near the body of a miner. In nearby localities cigarettes, pipes and matches were found in the jackets of men's jumpers.

This is an extremely gassy mine, liberating over four and a half million cubic feet of methane per twenty-four hours, and is one in which too many precautions cannot be taken. From the amount of smoking material found, it is apparent that discipline was not enforced as to smoking at least.

This is another one of the numerous explosions resulting while moving a body of gas and is evidence that such practice is extremely dangerous, when the shift is in the mine.

While this memorandum is of a confidential nature for the information of Bureau field men, it may be used in connection with Bureau work but should not be published.

D. Harrington
D. HARRINGTON.