

September 16, 1924; Sublet (No. 5) Mine, Sublet, Wyo.; 39 Killed

(From Bureau of Mines report, by E. H. Denny and K. L. Marshall)

The explosion, about 11:45 a.m., gave little surface evidence; two distinct reports and a cloud of dust came from the mouth of the rock slope. Most of the 39 victims were quickly killed by flame and suffocation. Twelve men of the 7 south entry walked out of the rock slope some hours after the explosion.

Rescue experts and crews with apparatus were gathered from neighboring mines and from a distance and labored until Oct. 14 to restore ventilation and recover the bodies, under the difficulties of rock falls, flooded workings, and general wreckage. The 12 north entry in which the explosion originated was caved for almost the entire length. Enough gas was regularly given off in the mine to entail immediate hazard if ventilation was even temporarily interrupted. Edison electric cap lamps were used; but regular tests for gas were neglected. Dust was sprinkled on entries and slope.

Gas accumulated in 12 north when a timber crew deranged a line curtain; it was ignited by an arc from a locomotive trolley. Dust and gas spread the explosion to almost all parts of the mine. Rock dusting, improved ventilation, and permissible equipment were recommended.