



FIGURE 68.—Mine rescue crews in training, 1926.



FIGURE 69.—Surface destruction by explosion, Barrackville, W. Va., March 17, 1925.



FIGURE 70.—Apparatus crew and advance workers being checked in at Barrackville mine, March 1925.

debris. A small steam hoist was rigged and a bucket swung in the hoisting shaft when voices were heard at the bottom. A rescue party finally reached them by the stairway in the airshaft and over large falls. Eight men were taken out unharmed.

Rescue parties found and put out three fires, using gas masks for protection. Another man and a boy were found alive. The 91 victims were nearly all killed by afterdamp as they were making their way to the shaft.

All recovery work except fire fighting was in fresh air. The explosion was not violent, and the destruction of the shaft timbering was due to its badly decayed condition. The origin was a room face where gas was lit by an open light. Gas had been coming in large quantities from roof cracks in this section. Dry coal dust entered into the explosion, but the low violence and the mixture of fine shale dust from the roof prevented a more widespread explosion. Had the men stayed in their places, many would have been saved.

January 14, 1926; Jamison No. 8 Mine, Farmington, W. Va.; 19 Killed

(From Bureau of Mines report, by G. S. Rice and J. W. Paul)

The mine, about 26 years old, is reached by 2 shafts, each 250 feet deep. The explosion, at 10 p. m., was confined to the 7th right section and died out in the main haulage road, where naturally wet conditions and

sprinkling prevented dust from rising. There were 47 men in the mine, of whom 28 were uninjured; 7 men near the shaft bottom went to the surface on the cage; 4 men remained in a wireman's shop on 20 right entry until fresh air was restored and they were reached by recovery crews. Eighteen others of the group gathered and, led by the machine boss and the compressor man, had retreated to the feedroom adjoining the stables in 20 right. Hay was used to seal the doorways, and the men remained for 18 hours with no discomfort until it was noticed that fresh air was moving in by on the entry, and 16 men walked out. Three of this group had attempted to escape through the afterdamp 12 hours after the explosion; 2 were suffocated, and the third managed to return (24, pp. 58-60).

Recovery crews found and extinguished 13 small fires. Gas masks were used. The evidence of the source of the explosion was not conclusive, but it was thought that gas accumulated when one or more doors were left open and was ignited by an arc from an open-type mining machine or its cable nips. Dust spread the explosion. Rock dusting and permissible equipment were recommended.

January 29, 1926; New Orient No. 2 Mine, West Frankfort, Ill.; 5 Killed

(From Bureau of Mines report, by J. B. Fleming)

At about 7:40 a. m. an explosion at the face of 7 north entry killed 5 men in the new entry. Gas had