

August 26, 1926; Clymer No. 1 Mine, Clymer, Pa.; 44 Killed

(From Bureau of Mines report, by J. J. Forbes, J. N. Geyer, and H. C. Howarth)

There were 62 men underground when the explosion occurred at 1:00 p.m. Of these, 27 were killed by violence, 17 by afterdamp; 4 were overcome but were revived later in the hospital; and 14 escaped uninjured. Eleven could have been saved by erection of a barricade, and most of those killed by afterdamp might have gotten out by using self-rescuers.

The fireboss did not report any gas in the mine. The main fan on the surface was not damaged, as the explosion doors opened. Rescue work was organized by 5 p.m., and the last bodies were removed on August 27. The recovery work was mostly done without apparatus. Gas masks were used for short trips. The explosion was confined to the 1st north section, although it was violent.

Gas had accumulated in places ventilated by a blower fan when a door was left open, or dust was raised by a roof fall; ignition was by electric arc from trolley wire or electric equipment. Gas and dust were involved. Ventilation was inadequate, and the mine was dry and dusty.