

PEABODY MINE AT WEST FRANKFORT SCENE OF BLAST

**Mine Rescue Squads Have
Been Unable To Reach
Point of Explosion**

West Frankfort, Ill., Jan. 9.—(By United Press.)—Approximately 100 miners were trapped by an explosion of undetermined extent in the Peabody Coal Co., mine No. 18, two miles northeast of here, at 7 a. m. today.

Four hours after the explosion, officials in charge of mine rescue squads reported inability to penetrate the workings to the point of the explosion and said that they were without information on the exact number of men in the mine.

The explosion occurred at approximately the 350 level.

The force of the explosion, two miners who reached the surface afterwards said, seriously damaged work and blocked passageways.

George Atkins, one of the two, reported he stumbled over what he believed were the bodies of fellow miners either dead or overcome by the blast.

About 100 Men Caught.

He said he believed about 100 men were in the affected part of the mine.

Mine rescue crews from Benton and from other sections of the southern Illinois coal belt were called to the Peabody mine and were working in relays attempting to penetrate to the trapped men.

The Peabody mine is in the center of a great coal producing district which recently resumed work after a long shutdown due to controversy over the Jacksonville wage scale.

One Man Killed.

The explosion caused one death and held between 20 and 30 miners captive, a checkup at 1 p. m. today disclosed.

The dead miner, Carl Jones, a face boss of West Frankfort, was one of 700 men who had been at work less than 30 minutes this morning when a dust or gas explosion cut off approximately 150 men, but about 30 of which had made their way to safety early this afternoon.

RESCUE SQUADS THERE.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 9.—(United Press)—State mine rescue squads from Benton, Herrin, Duquoin and Eldorado, under direction of A. P. Lewis, state director of mines and minerals, are at the scene of this morning's blast, the state department of mines reported today.

Lewis is assisted in direction of rescue work by A. W. Plumlee and James Sneddon, mine inspectors from Williamson and Franklin counties.

Lewis postponed a meeting of the Centuria mine board he was to attend in Centuria today and departed for West Frankfort as soon as he was informed of the explosion.