

Spark From Mine Motor Is Blamed

Ignition from a mine motor, operated by Elvis Taylor, 38, Wheatcroft, married and father of four children, ignited gas and caused the explosion in an entry in mine No. 10, West Kentucky Coal Company, between Clay and Wheatcroft, at 7:45 a.m. Monday, resulting in the death of Taylor and five others. it was announced officially Tuesday.

The announcement by James Fugate, Madisonville, district mine inspector, Kentucky Mines and Minerals division, came after recovery of the bodies of the six men and investigation by a group composed of United States Bureau of Mines, Kentucky Mines and Minerals division, and coal company officials, who completed the inquiry and agreed on findings Monday night.

The bodies of the victims were removed from the mine late Monday afternoon. The men are believed to have died instantly. All were badly burned.

The investigators who fixed responsibility are G. M. Patterson, head of the Kentucky Mines & Minerals Division, and district, state mine inspectors Fugate and C. E. Myers, both of Madisonville; members of the U. S. Bureau of Mines from Vincennes, Ind., Tom Christian, superintendent of the Sturgis group of West Kentucky Coal Co., and Aubin Higgins, Earlington, company engineer.

Reports from Wheatcroft Tuesday morning said funerals for the victims were to be held today and Wednesday. The mine was not damaged extensively, but no decision as to date of reopening had been announced.