

# Rescue Crews Work Relays At Sunnyside

By T. L. Cannon  
Deseret News

SUNNYSIDE—The toll stood at 25 Utah miners dead with seven others injured and in a hospital today following an explosion in the Sunnyside No. 1 mine of the Utah Fuel Company yesterday at 3:12 p.m.

Eighty-seven men of the Tuesday-day shift had stacked their tools and were starting their journey to the mine portal and home when the explosion was touched off, sending a swirling flash of flame and a terrific blast of gas racing through miles of underground workings.

Most of the dead were probably killed instantly by the force of the blast, the concussion of which in some cases tossed the men from wall to wall in the tunnels like rubber balls thrown by a giant hand.

Others succumbed within a few seconds to the deadly, irresorbable fumes which filled the passageways after the explosion had blown out ventilating systems. All of the victims were within a distance of some 100 feet of the explosion's origin, rescue workers declared. Scores of others escaped death by crawling on their bellies along the pitch dark and stinking passageways to fresh air, their heads wrapped in their jackets.

Word of the disaster spread like wildfire throughout the Carbon area, and within a matter of minutes rescue crews from mine operations over the county raced up to the Sunnyside mine portal with ambulance crews screaming.

The rescue squads and two of the victims were brought out within about two hours of the explosion, by which time volunteer guards and firefighters — most of them survivors of the great home on leave—were helping back a hysterical crowd of women and children, lined ones of the men to the mine whose fate was still to be learned.

As the first blanketed figures were carried from the mine, a crowd of 400 people and men went up from the emergency crowd, but immediately after there were cries of joy at the surface and only slightly injured helped their relatives remaining at the rope barriers.

The second two victims were brought to the surface about 8:40 a.m. and thereafter in the child of the gathering crowd the crowd which by now greatly well knew who were safe and who must be given up for dead.

Incidentally, about 100 small firms of coal haulers, two more victims were brought out at about 11 a.m. today. The third at 4 and two early today. Two more were hoisted within the mine and it was expected they would be brought out during the afternoon.

Incidentally, rescue crews from the Carbon area had been in Sunnyside for the Carbon blast since from Carbon County. Men from Carbon County were working in relief throughout the night, two teams of the men at a time staying in the tunnels as long as they were breathing.

When the scene of the explosion, something over two miles from the mine portal, the force of the blast had increased numbers, and caused some cutting and wall fall which hampered the work of the men.

The men were completely blinded or, however, and barely visible in passageways of scumming and heaving slabs enabled the men to reach every part of the affected area.

Within a few hours, the coal mine inspector for the State Industrial Commission with headquarters at Price, arrived quickly on the scene and went underground at once to direct the rescue efforts.

Practical possession of the investigation which went forward today, he would see.

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SINKINGS CLAIMED  
SAN FRANCISCO—(AP)—The Japanese Mine, which after

## List of Dead, Injured in Mine Blast

Following is the complete list of dead and injured in the Sunnyside No. 1 Mine blast Tuesday night last week.

- Dead 5: Fred Anderson, 70, Carbon; James H. Bostick, 54, Carbon; Fred Anderson, 70, Carbon; James H. Bostick, 54, Carbon; Fred Anderson, 70, Carbon; James H. Bostick, 54, Carbon.
- Injured: James W. Bostick, 54, Carbon; Fred Anderson, 70, Carbon; James H. Bostick, 54, Carbon; Fred Anderson, 70, Carbon; James H. Bostick, 54, Carbon.

### THE INJURED

- Charles A. Dumas, 38, Sunnyside; Fred Anderson, 70, Carbon; James H. Bostick, 54, Carbon; Fred Anderson, 70, Carbon; James H. Bostick, 54, Carbon.
- James W. Bostick, 54, Carbon; Fred Anderson, 70, Carbon; James H. Bostick, 54, Carbon; Fred Anderson, 70, Carbon; James H. Bostick, 54, Carbon.

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# 1945 Sunnyside mine disaster



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## Explosion - -

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only that the disaster resulted from a "gas ignition, cause unknown." He expressed the belief that probably half of the dead were killed "by violence," that is, the force of the terrific concussion resulting from the blast, and that the rest appeared to have died of poisoning by monoxide gas, the fumes resulting from the flash explosion.

He said the rock dusting of the entire workings, the process which guards against explosion of coal dust, appeared to have kept the blast from going throughout the mine, resulting in scores more casualties.

There appeared to be no evidence of "black damp," a non-explosive but deadly carbon dioxide gas which sometimes results from improper mine ventilation.

The injured men were rushed to the hospital at Draper, less than a mile from Sunnyside, where Dr. F. V. Columbo, resident surgeon, assumed charge. At the portal, Dr. C. W. Judd of the Sunnyside mine and Dr. E. V. Long of Castle Gate met the rescue crews with their shrouded stretchers, and turned back the blankets only to ascertain that the victims were beyond help.

The dead were taken to the Mitchell and the Wallace Mortuaries in Price after identification had been made.

Directing efforts of rescue crews within the mine were Fritz Nyman, general mine superintendent, and Carl Westberg, Sunnyside project manager, assisted by Archie Morrison and Jim Thorpe, mine superintendents of the Sunnyside and Castle Gate properties.

Most of the major coal mines of the county remained closed today as the reaction to the shock of yesterday's tragedy increased.

# 1945 Sunnyside mine disaster



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