

## Trapped Miners Rescued Unhurt

GORDONSVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Miners trapped underground by a fire in a zinc mine shaft were rescued after the flames were brought under control, a mining company official said.

The miners were trapped for several hours Wednesday by the fire, which occurred some 600 feet down the mine shaft. A company official said there were no injuries.

A. Schwandt, mine manager for Jersey Miniere Zinc Co., said the fire was believed to have started when some hydraulic oil spilled from a piece of loading equipment in the mine shaft, called a load-haul dump unit.

The accident occurred at about 2:30 p.m., Schwandt said, trapping miners farther down the shaft. He estimated about 20 men were involved.

The men were never in any danger Schwandt said, but they were unable to bypass the fire and get out of the shaft.

Schwandt said the trapped men went into so-called refuge chambers along the mine shaft, which are equipped with air, water and first aid supplies.

The mine, which has been open about two years, is still being dug and is not yet in production, Schwandt said.

Zinc is used primarily for die casting processes in the manufacture of detailed machinery, he said.

Jersey Miniere Zinc Co. is headquartered in Nashville, some 50 miles west of Gordonsville. The company has another mine in Smith County at Elmwood.

## 1978 TN Zinc miners trapped by fire rescued after several hours

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