

Five trapped miners rescued

WAYNESBURG, Pa. (UPI) — Five miners trapped by a rockfall for 4½ hours Wednesday deep inside the Gateway Coal Co. mine near this Greene County community were rescued without injury.

"It feels great," said John K. Self, of Greensboro, Greene County, after he emerged from the mine and passed a medical checkup.

"It was a great rescue effort by the other miners to get us out" adding that he was "a little scared" during the ordeal.

The men were cut off from the mine entrance when a roof collapsed at 2:50 p.m. in a shaft about 460 feet below the surface. They were freed by fellow miners who pulled away the debris, releasing them at about 7:30 p.m.

Bill Gibbons, a spokesman for Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. which owns the mine, said state and federal mine inspectors would begin an investigation into the incident today.

Gibbons said the miners "were a little dusty, but there were no injuries."

"The fall occurred between the mine entrance and their location. They were not trapped in the debris."

Also trapped were Charles V. Ferguson of Hibbs, Fayette County; James Bell Jr. of Dilliner, Greene County; Kenneth Beatty of Denbo, Washington County, and Robert S. Baker of Greensburg, Westmoreland County.

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