

# Two workers killed in dynamite mishap in Colorado mine

LEADVILLE, Colo. (AP) — Two miners, one a 23-year-old woman, were killed 183 metres underground Tuesday when the dynamite they had set in place exploded prematurely, mine officials said.

Five other workers at AMAX Inc.'s Climax molybdenum mine were in hospital for injuries and shock.

The cause of the explosion, which involved about 150 pounds of dynamite, was not known, said mine spokesman Nelson Fugate. Investigators from state and federal mining agencies and the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, were investigating.

The explosion occurred after a production crew placed the dynamite in a shaft which funnels fractured ore into an area to be loaded into cars for the surface, Fugate said. The shaft had become jammed, he said.

Killed were Mary Bradley, of Leadville, and Porter Sims,

26, of Buena Vista. Miss Bradley, a helper on the crew, had worked at the mine since Sept. 17. Sims was lead man on the crew.

Women working underground was a rarity until about three years ago when a series of federal civil rights suits forced mine operators to hire more women.

Another woman was killed in an underground coal mine last week at the Rushton Mining Co. mine in Centre County, Pa. Marilyn McCusker, 35, who had filed suit to win the right to work underground, was killed in a roof collapse, said Frank O'Gorman, a spokesman for the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration in Washington, D.C.

The Climax mine is the world's largest molybdenum mine and employs about 3,000. Molybdenum has a high melting point and is used primarily for making hardened steels.