Fatal Utah mine accident being probed

PRICE, Utah (AP) — Federal inspectors begin sifting through the rubble of last week's mining disaster today, in which a section of the Starpoint 1 coal mine caved in, killing four.

The officials will determine whether inspectors and employees complied with federal roof control requirements, said John Barton, a Mine Safety Health Administration manager in Denver.

"So many of the accidents these days end up in lawsuits," he said. "It is imperative for us to be very sure facts are correct."

It was the first time anyone had been killed at the Plateau Mining Co. operation, 20 miles southwest of Price. It was the first time this year anyone had been killed in a mining accident west of the Mississippi, Barton said.

The mine was expected to resume operations today.