

## 2 miners hurt, trapped in roof fall; 1 rescued

Associated Press

CUMBERLAND, Ky. — Two miners were injured and trapped in a roof fall at a mine in Harlan County yesterday afternoon, but one was rescued a few hours later, officials said.

Blair Gardner, with Arch Mineral Corp. of St. Louis, said rescuers pulled one man from the underground mine, but the other, a foreman, was still trapped last night and authorities could not make voice contact with him.

Rescuers, who had at their disposal heavy earth-moving equipment and a device to pump air into the mine, knew the trapped man's approximate location about 5,500 feet from the mine's entrance.

Gardner said the roof fall occurred around 5:30 p.m. EDT at the company's High Splint No. 1 underground mine at Cloverlick. The mine, run by Arch Mineral's subsidiary Arch of Kentucky, is about one mile south of Southeast Community College in Cumberland.

The miner who was rescued was identified as a roof-bolter operator, Elmo Banks, age unknown, Gardner said. He added that Banks was conscious when pulled from the mine. He had been talking to rescuers before being freed and had said that the foreman was alive.

Banks was to be taken by helicopter to the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville. His condition was not immediately available.

Ten men were in the mine at the time of the accident; the other eight escaped unhurt, Gardner said.

Gardner said the mine is of the pillar-removal type, in which miners partially remove pillars of coal as they work through the mine.

"What happened was when one of the pillars was removed, part of the roof caved in," he said.

Officials with the state Department of Mines and Minerals and the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration also were on the scene.

## 1990 Elmo Banks rescued after roof fall in Arch Minerals mine

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