

TRAPPED MINERS RESCUED

SEATTLE — Seven miners have been pulled safely from an Idaho mine after a sudden rock burst left them injured more than a mile below the surface. The accident Wednesday night was the third one this year at the Lucky Friday Mine in Mullen, where two workers have died — one of them a month ago — and the Mine Safety and Health Administration already has issued a series of enforcement orders. The mine was ordered closed again pending an investigation into the latest incident, which officials at Hecla Limited said did not appear to be connected to blasting activity in the underground shaft. Hecla Vice President Melanie Hennessey said the miners were installing a safety system to contain rock bursts when precisely the kind of burst the company was seeking to protect against occurred. Such a burst, a spontaneous fracture in the rock, can be triggered by blasting in deep mines, or by “seismic activity,” she said in an interview.

2011 Seven miners injured by rock burst pulled to safety at Lucky Friday mine

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