

# Woman in critical condition after Haunted Mine accident

Associated Press

**SIERRA VISTA** — A 26-year-old volunteer at the Copper Queen Haunted Mine Tour in Bisbee was in critical condition Wednesday a day after she was injured when a beam fell from the ceiling of the mine, knocking her into the path of the tour train.

Amy Armstrong was being treated at University Medical Center in Tucson.

The four-section train that hit Armstrong on Tuesday was carrying 20 to 24 people.

"People began screaming. Some thought it was part of the tour, but others realized someone was trapped and called to the engineer to stop the train," volunteer Linda Hoge said. "The engineer ran to the emergency phone and called 911."

Armstrong was caught under the beam and pinned against the wall of the mine by the train until several men freed her. It took about 20 minutes for emergency personnel to arrive.

City Manager Rob Yandow said all events scheduled for the mine tour, including the haunted tours and a Halloween children's party, were canceled.

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Arizona Republic

Nov. 1, 2001

# Naco woman crushed in Haunted Mine Tour

The Associated Press

BISBEE — In the dark and noise of the Copper Queen Haunted Mine Tour 1,500 feet inside a mountain, someone suddenly realized that not all of the screams and shouts were in play.

Amy Armstrong, a 26-year-old volunteer from Naco, had fallen under the wheels of a mine train carrying about 40 people during a Halloween fundraising tour Tuesday evening.

She died shortly after noon yesterday at University Medical Center in Tucson, where she had been taken in critical condition.

"People began screaming. Some thought it was part of the tour, but others realized someone was trapped and called to the engineer to stop the train," volunteer Linda Hoge said. "The engineer ran to the emergency phone and called 911."

Armstrong apparently had been caught under a fallen wooden beam and was pinned against the wall of the mine by the train until several men freed her, rescuers said.

Only the engineers had flashlights.

"It was dark, and it was confusing, and you'd hear

people yelling, but you didn't know if it was part of the act or the accident," said Russ McConnell, Bisbee's public works director, who was on the tour.

"Out of respect for the victim and her family," Bisbee canceled a downtown children's Halloween carnival planned for last night, City Manager Robert Yandow said.

The tour, a tourist attraction that draws about 20,000 people a year and produces \$525,000 in revenue for the city, was closed yesterday to allow a state mine inspector to begin investigation. It was to resume today, though the full investigation is expected to take several days.

Initial reports said Armstrong had been trapped against the beam, but Yandow said yesterday that though a piece of mining timber was found on the track near her, it wasn't known what role it played.

The train takes tourists into the Mule Mountains at the edge of Bisbee's Laverder Pit, a former copper mine. They sit astride cars behind a small locomotive that once hauled miners and ore through hundreds of miles of tunnels.

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**— Russ McConnell,  
Bisbee's public works  
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the tour**

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