

**Bureau of Mines Bulletin 586:  
Historical Summary of Mine  
Disasters in the United States  
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**November 26, 1886; Conyngham Colliery  
(Anthracite), Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; 12 Killed**

*(From report of State inspector of mines, 1886, p. 81)*

The workmen descended the Conyngham shaft \* \* \* before seven o'clock a. m., and because water in the sump threatened to cover the tracks, they waited there, \* \* \*. About 5 minutes after 7 o'clock \* \* \* 2 men went into the west airway to the sump carrying lamps \* \* \* gas, which had accumulated in the sump above the water, exploded. The flame extending out to \* \* \* the waiting workmen \* \* \* burned the largest number more or less \* \* \* those on the lower side most severely, but the largest number \* \* \* only slightly burned, were at work again in about a week thereafter. \* \* \* On Thanksgiving day (the 25th) the steam pipe on the boilers had to be repaired, and this caused the pump to stop for 6 hours \* \* \* the pump after being started, failed to lower the water below the roof before the explosion occurred. \* \* \* At about 4 o'clock the morning of the 26th, the fire-boss \* \* \* discovered the gas. He renewed a danger-mark \* \* \* about 80 feet outside \* \* \* the edge of the gas. \* \* \* the two persons \* \* \* went in over the boards with danger marks on, and then through the door, which was covered with danger marks \* \* \* and on to the sump.

Twelve men died of burns, 20 recovered, 15 were uninjured.