



# Reports

**Dated  
1954**

**Jamison #9 Mine**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF MINES

District C

FINAL REPORT ON MAJOR EXPLOSION AND FIRE DISASTER  
NO. 9 MINE  
JAMISON COAL AND COKE COMPANY  
FARMINGTON, MARION COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

November 13, 1954

By

W. R. Park  
District Supervisor

W. Dan Walker, Jr.  
District Supervisor

John J. Dougherty  
Subdistrict Supervisor

M. L. Davis  
Safety Representative

Originating Office - Bureau of Mines  
Morgantown, West Virginia  
John J. Dougherty, Subdistrict Supervisor  
Morgantown, West Virginia Subdistrict, Health and Safety District C

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction .....	1
General information .....	2
Mining methods, conditions, and equipment .....	4
Mining methods .....	4
Explosives and blasting .....	5
Ventilation and mine gases .....	6
Coal and rock dust .....	9
Transportation .....	12
Electricity .....	12
Illumination and smoking .....	13
Mine rescue .....	13
Story of explosion and recovery operations .....	13
Participating organizations .....	13
Activities of Bureau of Mines personnel .....	14
Mining conditions immediately prior to explosion .....	16
Story of explosion .....	17
Recovery operations .....	20
Investigation of cause of explosion .....	33
Investigation committee .....	33
Methane as a factor in the explosion .....	35
Flame .....	36
Forces .....	39
Evidence of activities .....	44
Point of origin .....	46
Factors preventing spread of explosion .....	46
Summary of evidence .....	47
Cause of explosion .....	50
Recommendations .....	51
Acknowledgment .....	53
Appendix	
A - Victims of explosion	
B - 500-foot mine map showing ventilation, extent of flame, forces, dust sampling locations, etc.	
C - Location and condition of various pieces of mining equipment	
D - Report on relationship of petroleum and natural gas operations to the explosions and fires	
E - Geologic aspects of the No. 9 mine explosion	
F - Fan pressure charts	
G - Map of 4 left off 2 north section	
H - Location of bodies in 1 south entries	
I - Map showing fire area near man shaft	
J - Map of No. 8 entry of 4 left off 2 north - point of origin	

## TABLES

	Follows <u>page</u>
1. Analytical results of air samples collected .....	22
2. Analyses of air samples from fire area .....	30
3. Analyses of mine dust samples .....	53

## ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig.

1. Surface buildings at man shaft before explosion .....	11
2. Surface buildings at man shaft after explosion .....	11
3. No. 2 fan after explosion .....	11
4. Battery ends of blasting cable and part of shuttle-car trailing cable, showing nails through cable, used for firing shots in No. 7 pillar place .....	6
5. End view of trailing cable with nails through positive and negative conductors .....	6
6. Waiting room and elevator at top of man shaft before explosion .....	12
7. Top of man shaft and bucket used for handling men during recovery operations .....	12
8. Elevator and man-trip station at bottom of man shaft before explosion .....	12
9. Bottom of man shaft during recovery operations .....	12
10. Timbering in fire area .....	30
11. Timbering in fire area .....	30

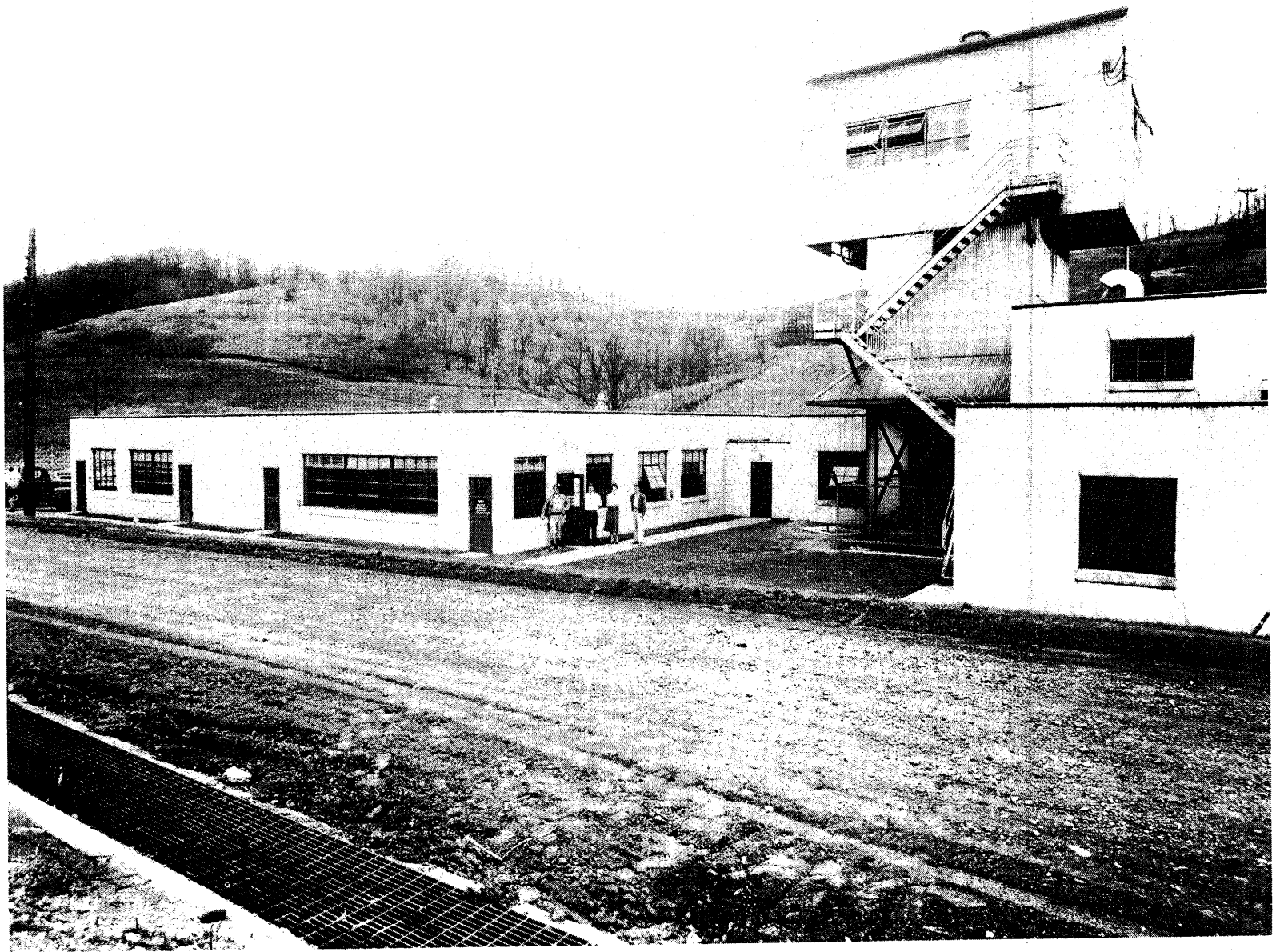


Figure 1. - Surface buildings at man shaft before explosion.

