

Miners Escape Tunnel Blaze Near Springfield

Springfield, Aug. 15 (AP)

An underground fire sent dense smoke through Peabody Mine No. 59 north of Springfield today, forcing between 250 and 300 men to use emergency escape shafts. None of them was injured, a Peabody official said.

Mine spokesmen said the fire started when an electric coal engine jumped the rails and the cars smashed into a trolley line.

WALTER EADIE, state mines director, said all the men reached safe areas and were evacuated three at a time. Most of them had been brought to the surface three hours after the fire broke out.

John T. Kelly, mine superintendent, and John Bressan, chief electrician, were cut off by the smoke for a short time but later reached safety.

The fire was brought under control an hour or so after it started at 1 p. m.

The mine is about two miles northeast of Springfield.

GOVERNOR Stevenson, who was attending the Illinois State Fair, went to the scene when informed of the fire.

Eadie said the area where the fire occurred was three miles from the main entrance and 300 feet below ground. The air escape shafts are between one and two miles from the entrance.

The fire broke out an hour and a half before the regular day shift was to end.

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