

Three rescued in Tenn. zinc mine fire

A fire broke out inside a zinc mine in Tennessee, trapping three miners inside for about three hours before they were rescued.

Mine Safety and Health Administration spokeswoman Amy Louviere said 54 miners were in the mine when the fire started on a drill rig about 800 feet below the ground. The other 51 miners quickly fled to safety, though two suffered smoke inhalation, she said.

The three were trapped by smoke and needed respirators to leave the mine, Louviere said. A rescue team helped the miners and they appeared unharmed when taken to a hospital, said Jefferson County EMA official Tim Wilder. "It's the ending you hope for," he said. It was not clear how the fire started at the Young Mine about 25 miles northeast of Knoxville, Louviere said.

Press and Sun Bulletin, December 29, 2011