

Commonwealth of Kentucky Description of Fatal Mine Accidents

COAL FATALS

— 2023 —

June 9, 2023 – JDs Custom Transport – Classification – Machinery

A contract truck driver died when he was struck by an excavator bucket. A contractor crew was using the excavator to assist in unloading a 10,000-gallon fuel tank from a lowboy trailer when the excavator bucket suddenly moved.

— 2022 —

March 20, 2022 – D-29 Darby Fork – Classification – Fall of Roof

A miner died when the roof fell in the area where he was moving a water line outby the retreat mining section.

January 11, 2022 – Colmar, Nally & Hamilton – Classification – Falling Material

A large tree fell from a highwall striking the cab of a pick-up truck, resulting in a fatal injury to the truck driver and a serious injury to the passenger.

— 2021 —

December 4, 2021 – River View Mine – Classification – Machinery

On a non-production shift, a mechanic was performing maintenance duties on a continuous mining machine when the raised tail boom lowered resulting in fatal crushing injuries.

— 2020 —

October 13, 2020 – Cardinal Mine – Classification – Powered Haulage

A miner died from his injuries after being struck by a battery-powered scoop. The victim had parked his shuttle car in an intersection when a scoop went through a curtain in an adjacent crosscut and struck the victim exiting his shuttle car.

October 9, 2020 – Puckett Creek Hydroseeding – Classification – Machinery

A contractor changed the nozzle on a hydro-seeder and then accidentally engaged the hydro-seeder's clutch while the nozzle was pointing towards him. The material being forced through the nozzle struck the victim. This caused the victim to fall backwards striking his neck on the hydro-seeder handrail.

— 2019 —

October 18, 2019 – Calvary Enterprises – Classification – Fall of Face, Rib, Side or Highwall

A portion of a rib corner fell striking the victim on the back and side and pinned him against the carrier. He was treated and released from the medical center on October 26, 2019. On November 4, the victim felt ill and was taken by ambulance to the medical center where he was pronounced dead.

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September 5, 2019 – Cardinal Mine – Classification – Powered Haulage

A continuous mining machine helper was fatally injured when he was struck by a battery-powered scoop. The victim was in the #3 entry behind a wing curtain that provided ventilation to the #3 right crosscut that was being mined. A scoop, carrying roof bolting supplies, was trammed through the #3 left crosscut, and struck the victim as it made a right-hand turn and passed through the wing curtain.

July 31, 2019 – Paradise No. 9 mine – Classification – Ignition or Explosion of Gas or Dust

On July 31, 2019 at approximately 16:30, a contract employee was fatally injured when an ignition occurred in the intake air/man shaft of the Ken American Resources, Inc., Paradise No. 9 mine. The victim fell approximately 355 ft. into the air shaft.

May 22, 2019 – Rex Coal Company – Classification – Fall of Rib

Victim was seriously injured when a section of coal/rock rib fell and pinned him to the mine floor. The accident happened as he was moving the machine cable. He died of his injuries on May 30, 2019.

March 7, 2019 – South Fork Coal – Classification – Machinery

Victim received fatal injuries while he was working on the pad of the highwall mining machine. The miner's head was caught in a pinch point between a post and a section of the machine.

January 14, 2019 – Toms Fork Mine – Classification – Powered Haulage

Victim was in the No. 3 entry taking measurements of the mining height when a shuttle car traveling in the No. 3 entry toward the feeder struck and fatally injured him.

— 2018 —

March 28, 2018 – D-11 Panther Mine – Classification – Powered Haulage

The victim was fatally injured while he and a coworker were making a conveyor belt splice. While the victim was on the belt, the conveyor belt started unexpectedly. The victim became entangled in the chains of the belt clamp and received fatal injuries as the conveyor belt moved.

— 2017 —

March 30, 2017 – Green Hill Mining – Classification – Fall of Face, Rib, Side or Highwall

The victim was struck by a rock approximately 4 feet by 5 feet by 30 inches that fell from the bottom section of the highwall.

January 26, 2017 – R & C Coal – Classification – Powered Haulage

The victim received fatal injuries when he became entangled in a moving belt drive roller.

— 2016 —

March 25, 2016 – Huff Creek No. 1 – Classification – Fall of Rib

The victim was struck and fatally injured by falling rib material at the B-3 Mains coal Transportation Borehole construction site.

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January 19, 2016 – Dotiki Mine – Classification – Machinery

The victim received fatal crushing injuries when he was pinned between the tail of the continuous mining machine and the inby coal rib.

— 2015 —

September 16, 2015 – Onton No. 9 Mine – Classification – Machinery

The victim was fatally injured while in the process of replacing a load locking valve on a cutting head support jack on the continuous miner. The victim had removed the load locking valve on the operator's side cutting head support jack when the blocking material under the continuous miner's head failed which allowed the cutter boom to collapse into the pan line causing crushing injuries to the miner.

May 28, 2015 – Apex Energy – Classification – Powered Haulage

The victim received fatal crushing injuries when he was pinned between the rear of a road grader and front of a loaded tractor and trailer.

— 2014 —

December 16, 2014 – Highland 9 Mine – Classification – Powered Haulage

The victim was fatally injured when he was struck by a battery ram car (coal hauler).

October 7, 2014 – Tinsley Branch HWM 61 – Classification – Fall of Highwall

The victim was struck by a rock 8 feet in width by 6 feet length and 16 inches.

— 2013 —

August 6, 2013 – Huff Creek No. 1 – Classification – Fall of Face, Rib, Side or Highwall

The victim was fatally injured on the 006 MMU during retreat mining. While mining in the first right lift of the #3 entry, a coal/rock outburst occurred fatally injuring the victim.

January 26, 2013 – Begley Resources – Classification – Machinery

A contract welder was attempting to remove a damaged portion of the center push blade metal liner on a Caterpillar D10R bulldozer. He received a blunt force trauma injury to the head resulting in a fatality.

February 6, 2013 – Midland Trail Energy – Classification – Exploding Vessels Under Pressure

The victim was trouble shooting a plate type filter press, when a hydraulic cylinder catastrophically failed and struck the victim.

METAL AND NONMETAL FATALS

— 2023 —

July 26, 2023 – Lexington Quarry – Classification – Powered Haulage

A miner was driving a pickup truck when he lost control and jumped from the pickup truck. The miner suffered head and other injuries and died on March 20, 2024, because of these injuries.

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March 1, 2023 – Bizzack Construction – Classification – Machinery

A contractor employee died when the bulldozer he was operating backed over a spoil bank, left the bench area, and rolled down an embankment. The contractor employee was ejected from the bulldozer.

— 2020 —

December 15, 2020 – Fords Branch Mine – Classification – Machinery

The victim was fatally injured while attempting to change the right rear tire on a Caterpillar 992D Front-End Loader.

— 2016 —

August 9, 2016 – Kosmos Cement Company – Classification – Machinery

The victim was attempting to replace the lift cable pulleys on the chute located at the barge loadout. When the lower portion of the chute unexpectedly fell the lift cable pinned the victim against the chute causing fatal injuries.

— 2014 —

February 21, 2014 – Personal Touch, Inc. – Classification – Slip or Fall of Person

The victim fell approximately 30 feet when attempting to access an elevator in the finish mill. When the elevator door opened on the fourth floor, the victim stepped into the elevator shaft and fell on top of the elevator car located on the ground floor.

— 2013 —

December 10, 2013 – Hunter Sand & Gravel – Classification – Other

The miner was working on a dredge that had a barge tied to its right front side. The victim stepped on the barge to observe the level indicators when he fell into the water.

November 18, 2013 – William E. Groves Construction – Classification – Electrical

The victim was working in an electrical enclosure, pulling cable for a new pump that was being installed. Two other electricians were working nearby when they saw the victim fall to the ground. He was transported to a hospital where he died on November 22, 2013.

September 18, 2013 – Caldwell Quarry – Classification – Falling Material

The victim was attempting to remove a rock from the pug mill hopper when he was engulfed by material in the hopper.

January 7, 2013 – Three Rivers Quarry – Classification – Fall of Face, Rib, Side or Highwall

The victim was injured on January 7, 2013. He was working from a man lift, taking a sample from the highwall, when a large rock fell and struck him. He was hospitalized and died on January 19, 2013.

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See more years of fatal accident reports for the **Commonwealth of Kentucky** at the Mine Safety and Health Administration's web site by [following this link](#).