

REPORT OF AN EXPLOSION AT BOYD MINE, TENNESSEE COPPER CO.  
DUCKTOWN, TENNESSEE  
JANUARY 5, 1943 - 9 KILLED

A sulfide-dust explosion occurred in this mine where instantaneous and 1 to 10 delay detonators were used for blasting. A dust cloud was created by the blasting of the first shots and ignited by the subsequent shots in a round of 35 holes on the 10 North No. 1 stope. The main ventilating fan on the surface was stopped by the explosion, and the air currents in the mine reversed themselves.

Forty-two men were in the mine at the time of the explosion, 25 of whom were in the vicinity of the stope. Owing to the reversal of the air currents, 8 men were killed and 17 were injured by fumes on the level below the stope where normally fresh air entered this section of the mine. One of the injured died several days later, making a total of 9 killed.

The 17 men who worked at some distance from the 10 North No. 1 stope were able to save themselves by stopping a blower fan and opening a compressed air line near the face of the crosscut in which they were working. Those men were rescued by crews working in fresh air after the mine ventilation was restored.