



Mining Accident News No.0927

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Tuesday 25 August 2009

Harmony shuts S.Africa gold plant after fatality

Extract from Reuters

JOHANNESBURG, - South Africa's Harmony Gold Mining Co. suspended operations at its Doornkop Plant in South Africa on Monday after a fatality at the plant, the company said on Tuesday.

The worker died after an accident at the plant's conveyor belt on Monday, the company said in a statement.

Spokeswoman Esha Brijmohan told Reuters the company and government officials were investigating the cause of the accident, and work

at the plant had been temporarily stopped. She said operations could resume within a day.

Flood in mine traps 8 in central China

Extract from Xinhua, China

CHANGSHA, - A total of eight people were confirmed trapped underground after a flood in a graphite mine Monday in central China's Hunan province, local government spokesman said Tuesday.

The accident occurred at around 6:00 p.m. Monday at Wangda Graphite Mine in Heye town in Guiyang county. At least eight miners were trapped, a spokesman for Chenzhou city, which administers the county, said, adding that rescue work was well under way.

Further details are not yet available, and the cause of the accident is being investigated.

Update: China mine blast kills 14 workers

Extract from Melbourne Herald Sun, Aus

FOURTEEN workers have been killed in a gas explosion at a coal mine in north China's Shanxi province.

A 32-hour rescue operation was called off after three bodies were recovered at a colliery in Jinzhong city, state news agency Xinhua reported.

Li Yuanzhen, the spokeswoman for the Heshun county government, earlier said eleven bodies had been found following Monday's blast and that three remained in the mine.

Two workers who were working near the entrance to the mine shaft escaped unharmed.

Rescuers worked through the night to clear debris from the shaft entrance and inserted a pipe to improve ventilation.

A Heshun county official in charge of the local coal sector was sacked late Monday after the

blast, Xinhua said, citing a government spokesman.

Officials launched an investigation into the cause of the blast.

China's coal mines are notoriously dangerous.

Official figures show that more than 3200 workers died in collieries last year, but independent labour groups say the actual figure could be much higher, as many accidents are covered up in order to avoid costly mine shutdowns.

Wednesday 26 August 2009

Ukraine: Industrial Safety Committee: Human Factor Led To Kirov Mine Accident

Extract from finchannel.com, Georgia

The FINANCIAL -- The State Committee for Industrial Safety, Labour Protection and Mine Supervision believes that the accident at the public enterprise Kirov Coalmine in Makiivka, Donetsk region occurred because of the enterprise leadership failed to observe in full the demands of the instruction for reversing the ventilation stream, reads a report made by the Committee.

The agency experts came to this conclusions basing on preliminary analysis of documents and testimonies of the tragedy eyewitnesses.

In particular, they found out that on August 21 methane content in all mine workings' air and specifically in the accident longwall face remained within tolerable limits.

This was recorded when deputy head of the Committee's supervision inspectorate in Makiivka district Anatolii Ivanenko examined the mine.

The gas content became hazardous on August 23, after reversing the ventilation stream.

"The government commission is trying to find out who this happened exactly, but already now it is clear that the leadership failed to observe normative demands in full," the report said.

It is reported that a reversing lasts for two and more shifts (one shift is six hours).

At the Kirov mine the reversing lasted for four hours.

The Committee has banned all operations at the mine, except for search and rescue works.

The Committee experts are thoroughly checking the condition of industrial safety and labour protection at the public enterprise MakiivVuhillia's mines.

At the moment ventilation and dust and gas regime examined at all the coal-mining enterprises.

As Ukrainian News earlier reported, a blast at the Kirov coalmine killed eight miners and injured another nineteen on August 23.

The Cabinet of Ministers formed a commission to find out the cause of the mine explosion.

USA: Crandall Canyon Mine payouts move through Utah courts

By PAUL FOY Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY - The biggest civil settlement from a Utah mine disaster is starting to move through state courts for approval.

Court documents show judges are signing off on payouts for children of miners and rescuers who were crushed to death or injured in a series of underground cave-ins at Crandall Canyon two summers ago.



Crandall Canyon Mine adit

Only the settlements reserved for children under 18 require a judge's approval.

Among the beneficiaries are two children of Brian Keith Pritt, a miner who survived the

thunderous collapse two summers ago only to commit suicide months later.

A lawyer says Pritt was haunted by survivor's guilt - he lost many of his close friends among the six miners who died in the initial collapse on Aug. 6, 2007.

Three rescuers died trying to reach the trapped men.

Quote of the week



"Deprived of meaningful work, men and women lose their reason for existence; they go stark, raving mad."

Fyodor Dostoevsky (Russian 1821-1881)

USA: Citations pending in Wise County mine fatality

Extract from timesnews.net

APPALACHIA — A state mining official on Wednesday said safety violation citations are pending against the mining company following Virginia's first coal mining fatality in over a year.

Virginia Division of Mines Chief Inspector Frank Linkous said Big Laurel Corp.'s No. 2 mine north of Appalachia, near the community of Roda, remains shut down while state and federal investigators continue their probe into the death of William Wayne Parrott, 58, of Big Stone Gap.

A week ago, Parrott was killed by a "rib roll" about 12,000 feet underground while working near the end of the third shift of the Cumberland Resources Corp. operation. A "rib roll" is a collapse of a portion of a corridor wall.

Linkous said his office is considering installation of a rib-support system in the No. 2 mine before allowing the mine to reopen.

"We have a roof specialist up there today looking at the concept support technology we want to consider to provide additional safety measures. It's called a 'bracket' design to afford some added protection for what happened," he said. "We want to be in a position to know we did all we can to prevent a similar occurrence from happening, about how we deal with that particular hazard and do it with technology to provide more protection."

Closure orders will not be lifted until state and federal officials are satisfied mining can begin in a safe manner, he said.

"We know it's important to these men to get back to work, and it's important to the operator, but we want to make sure we take care of business and do what we can to make it safe," Linkous said.

Big Laurel No. 2 employs 25 miners on the day shift, 16 on the second shift and 19 on the third shift. The mine averaged 3,200 raw tons of production per day prior to the accident.

"We take that very serious," Linkous said of applications of mine safety measures. "We've argued and debated and discussed this situation, and we want to be fair to everybody, but obviously we want to be fair to the law first and foremost. This particular incident has a lot of complex issues we're looking at. We will have citations, I will say that. Some will be associated with the accident itself, but we're also looking at the entire mine."

Linkous said he was hoping 2009 would be a fatality-free year for Virginia mining operations.

"We've gone over a year without this happening, and I was hoping this would be a good year for us. It's disheartening and disappointing anytime a life is lost," he said. "There is so much being done to make mining safer, and everybody associated with the industry hates it when this happens because it's a shot below the belt. And it is always on our mind and in our heart that it's the family that suffers the most in something like this."

Thursday 27 August 2009

USA: Fire extinguished at Massey Coal Prep plant

Extract from Charleston Gazette

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Firefighters have put out a fire that engulfed five floors of a Massey Coal prep plant in Logan County early this morning.

Jama Jarrett, spokeswoman for the state Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training, said the fire broke out at Massey's Band Mill prep plant at about 3:30 a.m. The plant serves as a coal cleaning station for half a dozen local mines, including the nearby Aracoma mine.

Jarrett said everyone who had been in the building got out safely and no injuries were reported. Several local fire departments responded to the blaze, which was extinguished by 9 a.m.

Mine safety officials are interviewing employees at the prep plant. Jarrett said state officials don't yet know what caused the fire.

Coal mine gas blast kills seven, injures three in SW China

Extract from Xinhua, China

GUIYANG, - A coal mine gas blast killed seven people and injured three others in southwest China's Guizhou Province, authorities said Thursday.

The accident took place at about 6:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Jiangfeng Coal Mine in Guli Township of Qianxi County, when 52 miners were working underground, said Chen Xiaohui, deputy director of the Guizhou Provincial Work Safety Administration.

A total of six people were killed instantly, and 45 others escaped, of whom three were injured, Chen said. The body of a miner missing after the blast was found Wednesday night, he said.

The injured people are being treated in hospital and are in stable conditions, he said.

The coal mine reports an annual output capacity of 150,000 tonnes. It is equipped with gas monitoring and a drainage system and had just finished a technological upgrade before the accident, Chen said.

The cause of the blast is being investigated, he added.

This week in mining accident history

26 August 1990

Dobrnja-Jug Mine, Mramor, Tuzia, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Underground Lignite Mine

Methane gas explosion, 180 killed

Source: <http://.en.wikipedia.org>

The Dobrnja-Jug mine disaster was a mining accident that happened on August 26, 1990 at the mine shaft Dobrnja-jug of the Kreka lignite mine near Mramor in the municipality of Tuzla in northeast Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the worst mining accident in the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 180 miners were killed

Between 1:20 and 1:30a.m. on August 26, 1990 a methane gas explosion 1,800 feet below the surface caused a cave in which buried the entire third shift who were near the site of the explosion. 180 miners were killed leaving 365 children fatherless. One miner who was bringing the lignite to the surface was the sole survivor.

The miners at the 40-year-old Kreka lignite coal mine in Dobrnja, 85 miles southwest of Belgrade, had gone back to work on Friday after a strike this summer over pay and conditions.

Country's Worst

Mine officials said it would be Yugoslavia's worst mining disaster, surpassing the death toll of 128 in a 1965 accident in the republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

They said the explosion was probably caused by methane gas or coal dust, or a combination of both.

Witnesses said the blast sent huge chunks of concrete flying through the air above the mine, whose entrance was blocked with twisted metal.

At the time rescue workers said that ventilation had been cut off and that huge boulders blocked a four-mile tunnel leading to the miners along with very high temperatures and workings full of dangerous gases.

President Borisav Jovic flew to the scene by helicopter and called for an immediate investigation and punishment if human error was blamed for the explosion.

The Kreka colliery, modernized in the 1980's, has been producing about 650,000 tons of lignite coal a year.

Friday 28 August 2009

Poisonous gas in China mine kills 15

Extract from the age.com.au, Aus

Fifteen miners have died after inhaling toxic gases in a graphite mine in central China, state-run media has reported.

The deaths occurred at around 4 p.m. Friday at Jicai Graphite Mine in Yuanlutang township, Beihu District, Chenzhou City. The rescue ended at 3 a.m. Saturday morning, said a municipal government spokesman.

The report said no further details were immediately available on the accident, which it said was under investigation.

China's poorly regulated mining industry is among the world's deadliest, with thousands of miners killed every year in underground explosions, cave-ins, mine floods and gas leaks.

Mine blast sends boulder into home

Extract from Associated Press & Kentucky.com

FRANKFORT, Ky. -- State officials are investigating after a surface mine blast in Floyd County sent a boulder tumbling downhill, damaging one home and threatening others.

The Kentucky Department for Natural Resources says the incident occurred Friday near Martin on a site permitted to Frasure Creek Mining Co.

The boulder crashed into a home near state Highway 1210. No one was home at the time of the incident and no injuries were reported.

Residents were asked to leave two nearby homes because of concerns that more debris would fall down the hill.

The mining company is working with the state to secure the site above the homes. Work was under way Saturday.

Mining dictionary

A guide to common mining terminology

S

shaft A hole that is deeper than its maximum dimension across at ground level. It may be vertical or inclined. Commonly seen on alluvial fields where they are dug to access washdirt, and in hard-rock country to access ore-bearing leads or coal seams. Usually equipped with a windlass or poppet had. Major shafts are commonly divided into two or three sections, one or two being for raising and lowering cages, and the third for a ladderway and piping.



Abandoned goldmine shaft

- Ed.