



Mining Accident News No.0933

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In this issue

Six dead, two missing in NW China colliery blast 1

QLD: Blast death inquest urges more apprentice supervision..... 1

Nepal: Duwakot sand mine victim back on the job 2

Women die in Ghana mine collapse..... 3

Quote of the week 3

Six confirmed dead after gas outburst in north China coal mine 3

USA: Worker hurt in fall at Nevada mine 4

USA: Alcohol Contributing Factor in Mining Death..... 4

Death toll 'rises to 87' in China mining accident 4

Man dead after mining accident in NT 5

Canada Tragedy: Man's death the first at PotashCorp facility since 1986 6

Management blamed in China mine blast that kills 104..... 6

USA: One man dead, at least four hospitalized after collapsing of heat exhaustion in Brookwood mine..... 7

This week in mining accident history 8

USA: Miners who died, collapsed at Brookwood No. 7 are identified..... 9

NSW: Service to remember mine deaths 10

USA: Crane accident kills worker at mining site in southeastern Kentucky 10

Tanzania: Address safety at small-scale mines10

Death toll rises to 15 in central China colliery blast 11

Mining dictionary 11

Tuesday 10 November 2009

Six dead, two missing in NW China colliery blast

Extract from Xinhua, China

YINCHUAN -- Six miners are dead and two are missing after a coal mine gas explosion in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region early Tuesday, a local official said.

Six bodies had been found and 11 miners had been rescued and taken to hospital, said a Ningxia Coal Mine Safety Bureau official.

The blast occurred at 6:53 a.m. when 19 miners were working in the Shabatai coal mine in Shizuishan City.

Rescuers are still searching for the two missing miners.

The bureau is investigating the accident.

QLD: Blast death inquest urges more apprentice supervision

Extract from ABC Online, Aus

An inquest into the death of an apprentice mechanic in Mackay in 2005 has found increased supervision may have prevented his death.

Joshua Leslie Hopkinson was killed while dismantling a nitrogen charged cylinder from a mining drill at a workshop in Paget, in north Queensland, in July 2005.

The 17-year-old apprentice fitter and turner for HMG Hardchrome suffered fatal chest injuries when the cylinder from the Norwich Park mine exploded.

Coroner Ross Risson has recommended that dismantling and discharging procedures for stored energy equipment be reviewed by mine operators and the Mining Inspectorate promotes awareness of the hazards involved.

The coroner has also recommended apprentices who are working with stored energy equipment be supervised at all times.

Wednesday 11 November 2009

Nepal: Duwakot sand mine victim back on the job

Extract from Republica, Nepal

BHAKTAPUR: Even after the Duwakot tragedy that claimed the lives of five labourers about two weeks ago, hundreds of their colleagues continue to work in hazardous sand mines with no safety measures.

After the tragedy, Devi Lama, one of three injured in the accident, resolved not to work in such dangerous places. "Henceforth I will not enter the trenches to extract sand," the 26-year-old had told journalists soon after surviving the accident.

But, for lack of any other source of livelihood, she has ended up back in the sand trenches.

On October 28, the five labourers died in Duwakot, Bhaktapur district when an illegally run sand mine caved in. Three others were injured.

"We have no choice," Devi's husband Diwesh says. "Poor folks like us have to take up whatever work we come across."

According to Diwesh, Devi could not sleep for nights after the tragedy, nor get over the trauma of co-workers perishing in front of her own eyes.

Devi was also buried in sand up to her neck during the accident.



"She would not have survived if it had been black clay instead of dry sand," Diwesh says.

For days, she could not even set foot outside her home. But she ultimately joined the other sand miners again out of a real fear of not being able to feed her children.

"I am also going to return to work within a few days," Diwesh says, adding he will try to find something relatively safe to do. "If that does not materialize, I will return to mining sand," he says. Diwesh luckily escaped the accident as he was on a tea-break.

Padam Ghising, 31, who was in the same group with Diwesh and Devi, has also resumed working in the sand mines. Padam managed to support his family out of his savings for some time. But it did not last long. "I went back to sand mining after my meager savings ran out," he says.

Padam's wife Phulmaya also narrowly escaped in the accident. "I would have died had I not leapt forward quickly," she says.

The trauma of the sand mine collapse haunts them both. Though they have not fully recovered, they are back on the job.

There is no precise data on labourers mining sand. More than 1,000 sand mine workers are estimated to be working in Bhaktapur alone. Sand mines are in operation across Kathmandu Valley.

The District Development Committee (DDC) of Bhaktapur has issued general licenses to 22 sand mines. But contractors for only three of the sand mines have permission from the DDC to extract sand in the current fiscal year. Likewise, DDC Kathmandu has issued licenses to 23 sand mines. And only 11 of them are operating this year.

Most sand mine contractors do not care for the labourers' health and safety. They never provide them with equipment to protect themselves from incidents.

Most of the contractors often violate the basic norms for operating sand mines. Going by an agreement that every contractor has to sign to get a license, they cannot make workers work

the sand mines after night fall. However, workers quite often have to work until late night.

Padam says the workers cannot call it a day unless all the trucks waiting to make deliveries are loaded with sand, no matter how late it is. They often work without any lighting arrangement in place.

It is not just the contractors who force them to continue sand mining in such risky conditions. It is poverty that drives them into the sand trenches without thinking about their health and safety.

Thursday 12 November 2009

Women die in Ghana mine collapse

Extract from BBC News, UK

At least 15 people working in an illegal gold mine in western Ghana were killed when the mine collapsed.

Thirteen of those who died in the privately owned gold mine in Dompouse town were women, police told the BBC.

The accident, which officials described as the country's worst mining disaster, happened on Tuesday when about 30 people were working in the mine.



Many people dig in pits hoping to strike some of Ghana's large gold reserves

Police have said they fear that more bodies will be recovered from the collapsed mine.

"This is the biggest mining tragedy that has ever hit Ghana," western region police chief Kojo Antwi Tabi told Agence France Presse.

"The government must take measures to control the activities of miners," he added.

The BBC's Casper Leighton in the capital, Accra, says Ghana has large gold reserves and alongside the multinational mining companies, locals dig pits in the hopes of striking gold themselves.

Safety measures are poor or nonexistent, he says.

While men generally do the digging it is often women who carry out the soil for sorting.

Police say they are looking into the possibility of criminal negligence but that the owner of the mine was one of those killed.

Quote of the week



"Corruption is nature's way of restoring our faith in democracy."

Sir Peter Ustinov,
(British actor, writer and dramatist 1921-2004)

Friday 13 November 2009

Six confirmed dead after gas outburst in north China coal mine

Extract from Xinhua, China

SHIJIAZHUANG, -- Six miners have been confirmed dead Friday three days after a gas and coal outburst in a mine in north China's Hebei Province, local authorities said.

The six bodies were retrieved in the shaft after more than 60 hours of search, officials with the local rescue crew said.

The accident happened at around 11 a.m. Tuesday at Majiagou coal mine in Tangshan City of Hebei, officials said.

All the other miners working underground at the time managed to escape, they said.

The local work safety administration is investigating the cause of the accident.

Monday 16 November 2009

USA: Worker hurt in fall at Nevada mine

Extract from MercuryNews.com

ELKO, Nev.—Federal and state mining officials are investigating an accident at a northeast Nevada gold mine that left one man injured after he fell about 90 feet.

The accident happened Friday at the Hollister underground mine in northwestern Elko County, owned by Great Basin Gold Ltd.

Company officials say the 36-year-old man was hospitalized in Winnemucca and then flown to a Reno hospital as a precaution.

His injuries were described as limited to cuts and a broken rib. U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration and state mine inspectors were notified.

Officials say he is expected to be OK. The man's name is being withheld at the request of his family.

Thursday 19 November 2009

USA: Alcohol Contributing Factor in Mining Death

Extract from MetroNews, West Virginia, USA

An investigation by the state Mine Safety Board says a coal contractor was intoxicated when he wrecked a large truck into a pond and drowned at a Kanawha County mining site in late July.

State Mine Safety Director Ron Wooten says the mine safety board is holding a security guard and a supervisor partly responsible. The accident report was released Thursday.

Wooten says the investigation shows the two had prior knowledge that victim Mark Allen Gray may have been drinking while at work.



Hollister Gold Mine, Nevada, USA

"The security guard indicated she had seen him place beer in his lunch bucket," Wooten said. Investigators found a beer can in the cab of the truck shortly after the July 28 accident. Wooten says Gray's supervisor also had reason to believe alcohol was being used.

Gray had a blood alcohol level of .08 and a trace of marijuana was found in his system. The accident happened when he was backing up his Lizard Truck at a high rate of speed at Cantenary Coal's Samples Mine in eastern Kanawha County. Gray missed a curve and went over an embankment into the pond where he drowned. He worked for Hawkeye Contracting.

Wooten says both workers have been cited individually along with the companies. He says there's a new emphasis on keeping alcohol off of mining sites.

"We regard intoxication in the workplace as an imminent danger," Wooten said. "And anyone, whether it's a supervisor, fellow employee, security guard or anyone else who allows that individual to stay in the workplace without doing anything about it is going to be held responsible," Wooten said.

Sunday 22 November 2009

Death toll 'rises to 87' in China mining accident

BEIJING -- At least 87 people are now known to have died in China's worst coal mine accident in two years, state media say.

Another 21 miners are missing after the blast at Xinxing pit in Hegang City in Heilongjiang province.

The toll has more than doubled from 42 dead earlier. Some 528 workers were in the mine when the blast hit before dawn on Saturday local time, said Xinhua.

A top official, Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang, has been sent to oversee rescue efforts at the state-owned mine.

President Hu Jintao and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao had also been in contact with rescue workers, state media said.

China's mines are notoriously dangerous. The central government has made improving safety standards a priority, but rules are often ignored in favour of profit.

The blast in the mine, in the region bordering Russia, occurred at 18:30 GMT on Friday. More than 400 people managed to escape.

Many of the injured were being treated at the Hegang Mining Bureau Hospital, which said all 800 of its medical workers had joined the rescue operation, Xinhua reported.

Rescue official Zhang Fucheng was quoted by Reuters news agency as saying that attempts to reach the 21 trapped miners were being hampered by dense gas and collapsed tunnels.

But a spokesman for the mining company, San Jingguang, said he believed the men were still alive and that rescuing them was the "first priority".

The BBC's Michael Bristow in Beijing says it appears that a build up of gas was the cause of the explosion.

One of the rescued miners, Wang Xingang, said the blast knocked him out briefly.

"When I regained consciousness, I groped my way out in the dark and called for help," Xinhua quoted him as saying.

The mine is operated by the state-owned Heilongjiang Longmei Mining Holding Group and has an annual capacity of 1.45m tonnes of coal, said Xinhua.

The authorities are likely to be concerned that the accident happened in a state-run mine, says our correspondent.

They are generally considered to be safer than private collieries, whose lax safety standards have contributed to a high rate of accidents.

Most incidents are blamed on a failure to follow safety guidelines, often in an attempt to cut costs and meet an increasing demand for fuel.

The Chinese authorities have been trying to deal with the dangers by closing smaller mining operations and forcing local authorities to regulate the industry.

The government closed some 1,000 small mines in a recent safety drive, and says the number of miners killed has been halved as a result.

But miners are still dying at a rate of six a day, and independent labour groups say many accidents are covered up in the drive for profit and coal.

In February, more than 70 workers were killed in an explosion at a mine in Shanxi province.

Editor's note: at print, death toll is 108.

Monday 23 November 2009

Man dead after mining accident in NT

Extract from ABC Online, Aus

The operators of a Northern Territory gold mine have confirmed one of their employees died in a mining accident this morning.

HWE Mining and Newmont Asia Pacific, which run the Granites Gold Mine, near Callie, 300 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs, say mining operations at the site have been suspended since the man died.

The companies say the man was injured in an underground incident (*it is believed that he had been run over by a truck reversing underground – Ed.*) and subsequently died of a heart attack at the mine's medical centre.

The companies say other employees have been offered counselling and an investigation into the incident is underway.

Sergeant Rudy Jamieson says police in Yuendumu, about 300 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs, received a call at 1am to report that a man had died at the mine.

Officers from Yuendumu have travelled to the mine to investigate and the death is also being reported to NT Worksafe.

Sergeant Jamieson says arrangements are being made to fly the man's body back to Darwin.

Canada Tragedy: Man's death the first at PotashCorp facility since 1986

Extract from the Telegraph-Journal, New Brunswick, Canada

PENOBSQUIS - An accident at the PotashCorp New Brunswick mine Saturday has claimed the life of 56-year-old Vincent Mitton of Penobsquis, Sussex.

Few details are being released, but the mine's general manager, Mark Fracchia, confirmed Sunday that the accident occurred underground around 3 p.m. Fracchia said that Mitton was working on some piping in the existing mine when he suffered fatal injuries.

"Details of the incident, or the cause of the accident, are not available yet," he said. "The incident is being investigated by WorkSafeNB and we are also conducting our own internal investigation."

Mitton was a long-time employee of the mine, which first opened in 1983. Nothing else could be confirmed Sunday afternoon.

"Our priority right now is to not only begin that investigation but also to help out the family," he said.

"Our thoughts and prayers go with them."

The mine expects to have some answers in the next few days, he said.

In terms of the mine's safety record, 2009 was shaping up to be the best in the company's history.



PotashCorp Saskatchewan Underground Mine, Canada

In May, the local potash mine was honoured for the third time with the national John T. Ryan Trophy, which recognizes the mine that experienced the lowest accident frequency rate the previous year.

"As of May we had achieved a million safe hours without a lost-time injury," said Fracchia.

The last fatality at the mine was in 1986.

In October the mine began an eight-week shutdown but a large percentage of the workforce was still doing maintenance.

At that time Fracchia said mining would not resume until December because product inventories are high due to low sales volumes.

The break is in addition to two other eight-week shutdowns this year, on top of a scheduled maintenance period of four weeks.

Last month PotashCorp laid off 700 employees in Saskatchewan over poor market conditions for potash.

Global consumption of the commodity has slowed during the recession as farmers apply less fertilizer - an end product made partly of potash.

Management blamed in China mine blast that kills 104

Extract from CNN, China

Beijing, China -- Chinese officials blamed poor management and inadequate precautions for an

explosion at a mine that killed 104 people, state-run media said Monday.

In addition to those killed, 60 miners remained hospitalized from Saturday's morning blast at the Xinxing coal mine in northeastern Heilongjiang province.

Most were being treated for injuries such as carbon monoxide poisoning and burns, CCTV reported. Six were in critical condition with severe burns.

Four other workers were still trapped underground in the mine shaft, the Xinhua news agency said.

The accident started with a gas leak in one of the shafts, officials said. But because of poor ventilation, gas poured into the main tunnel and triggered an explosion that shook 28 of the 30 mining platforms in operation.

About 530 miners were working in the mine at the time.

Luo Lin, head of the State Administration of Work Safety, told Xinhua that the mine's management was to blame for not evacuating workers when they detected a high gas density in the pit.

State regulations stipulate that miners have to evacuate if gas density exceeds 2 percent. The density in the pit was more than 10 percent, authorities said.

"The mine has too many mining platforms in operation and has sent to many workers down the pit to increase output," said Zhao Tiechui, deputy head of the work safety agency.

The mine is owned and operated by the Heilongjiang Longmei Mining Holding Group. Unlike most small- and mid-size collieries, Xinxing produces 12 million tons of coal a year.

The blast took place during a five-day inspection of work safety conditions in Hegang, local media said.

Immediately after the blast, the mine's director, deputy director and chief engineer were fired.

Mine accidents are common in China. Last year, 3,200 people were killed in such accidents, state media said.

The latest blast is the deadliest since December 2007, when 105 miners were killed in Shanxi province.

The deadliest mine blast took place in August 2007 when two collieries flooded in Shandong province, killing 181 miners, Xinhua said.

Chinese officials said they will pay at least 250,000 yuan (\$36,600) to each of the families of the miners who died.

Tuesday 24 November 2009

USA: One man dead, at least four hospitalized after collapsing of heat exhaustion in Brookwood mine

Extract from Tuscaloosa News, Alabama, USA

BROOKWOOD - One man is dead and another headed for DCH Regional Medical Center after both collapsed of heat exhaustion while inspecting the extreme boundaries of Brookwood Mine No. 7, said a spokesman for Jim Walter Resources, the owner of the mine.

Spokesman Dennis Hall said the two men were conducting a routine weekly inspection of an area of the mine that is not actively mined Monday night and failed to call back to the control room about 10 p.m., as is protocol. The inspection is a weekly check mandated by the government.

The men apparently collapsed from heat exhaustion. One was dead at the scene. The other was transported to DCH. Hall did not know his condition. He declined to give their names, but said family members were at the scene.

"When the control room didn't hear from them, they sent someone to look for them," Hall said. "There was 100 percent humidity and very warm in that area; it's always the warmest area at the face."

The four people who went to find the first two also were overcome by heat exhaustion and

were transported to DCH for treatment. Hall did not know whether the four were still in the hospital or had been released.



Emergency personnel leave Jim Walter Resources Mine No.7, Brookwood

The No. 7 mine is about 2,000 feet deep at the shaft and goes to the southwest for about 2 miles. Hall said the two men were at the extreme boundaries.

Tuscaloosa County Sheriff Ted Sexton said deputies had responded to the accident and found two miners who were overcome from heat exhaustion and lack of oxygen. He said the men were about one mile out when they were found.

"It appears to be some kind of situation involving temperature and lack of oxygen," he said this morning. The Sheriff's Office will conduct an investigation into the accident once the scene is safe, he said.



'We'd best get back to business, pardner'

This week in mining accident history

9 November 1963
Miike Coal Mine, Japan
Underground Coal Mine
Coal dust explosion
458 killed

Source: www.wired.com & <http://shippai.jst.go.jp/en/>

The Miike coal mine, also known as the Mitsui Miike Coal Mine was a coal mine located in the area of Ōmuta, Fukuoka and Arao, Kumamoto, Japan. Mining began in the Edo Period and the mine was nationalised in 1872. The Mitsui zaibatsu took control in 1899.

At 3.12 p.m. on 9 November 1963, a thunderous explosion took place. At the bottom of the first mining level, ten of the four-wheeled carts filled with coal were being hauled to the surface. One of the lower three carts derailed and, because of the tension thereby created, the chain of the third cart broke. At 1,180 metres from the entrance, eight cars began a free-fall run to the bottom of the mine. They ran free for about 360 metres, increasing their speed by 33 metres per second, the momentum breaking archway support frames in the mine. Then all of the carts were derailed and turned over. At this point the explosion took place.

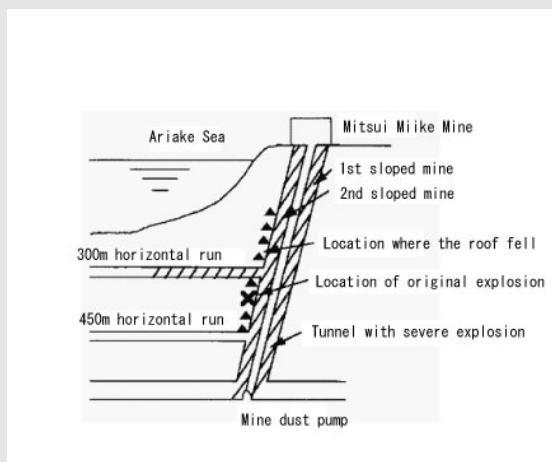


Miike Coal Mine, circa 1960

The rapid air displacement caused by the high-speed carts created air currents which caused the settled coal dust to mix with the surrounding air. It is possible that the friction caused by the carts turning over produced the spark that ignited the coal dust; alternatively, the crashing

carts could have damaged the high-voltage cables, and this could have been the ignition point for the explosion. The compression caused by the explosion moved toward the mine entrance, and, 100 metres from the first explosion, a powerful second explosion was created. It has been estimated that the wind created by this second explosion was probably travelling at a rate of 1,000 metres per second. The compression from the second explosion, as it headed toward the bottom of the mine, fortunately did not touch off another explosion, but the carbon monoxide that was created by the two explosions spread throughout the entire mine, creating a disastrous poisoning situation.

At that time the second shift of workers (2 to 10 p.m.) had just started entering the mine, and some of the first-shift workers (6 a.m. to 2 p.m.) were in the process of leaving. Twenty people were killed by the direct effects of the explosions, but 438 died from acute carbon monoxide poisoning, and 839 suffered the after-effects of poisoning.



Cross section of the accident site

After the explosion, rescue efforts took place immediately. Investigation of the cause of the accident began. The mining operation was suspended.

1,197 of the 1,403 workers in the mine at the time were either killed by the explosions or suffered from carbon monoxide poisoning. There is to date no other coal-mine accident in the world that has produced such a large number of casualties.

Amazingly, the Mitsui Coal Mine Company management had no knowledge of the coal-dust explosion problem. Most labourers believed that coal-dust explosions were caused by methane gas explosions and therefore were not open to ignition from other causes. Since the coal mine contained almost no methane gas it was believed that coal-dust explosions there were an impossibility. This explosion was to dislodge that myth very effectively. If management had shown a greater sense of responsibility toward the potential for coal-dust explosions, appropriate methods of avoiding such disasters would have been taken, cutting down the damage done and minimizing the danger to life and health.

After the investigation of the cause of the accident, the management improved the emergency procedures of the security measures resumed the mine operation -- until March of 1997, when the mine was abandoned.

The Miike mining disaster is still one of the worst coal mining disasters in history.

USA: Miners who died, collapsed at Brookwood No. 7 are identified

Extract from The Birmingham News - al.com

Jim Walter Resources Inc. officials have identified two miners who collapsed in the Brookwood No. 7 mine last night.

James Chaney, 53, of Berry died in the mine. Milton Etheridge, 59, of McCalla was found collapsed and was taken by helicopter to UAB Hospital after his rescue this morning. He was listed in good condition at the hospital this afternoon.

"They each had decades of coal-mining experience," said Dennis Hall, spokesman for Jim Walter Resources.

Jim Walter officials also responded to a report by a federal mine safety official that low oxygen was to blame for Chaney's death. "We don't know how anyone could come to that conclusion at this early stage of the investigation," Hall said.

Two other miners on duty and three members of the mine rescue team showed signs of heat exhaustion during the rescue, which involved about 20 people at one point this morning. An additional three miners became ill today while working on the ventilation system after the rescue effort, a company spokesman said.

The mine's tunnels occupy an area of 10 to 15 square miles.

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration said low oxygen levels might have caused the death, but Jim Walters spokesman Dennis Hall said, "We don't know how anyone could come to that conclusion at this early stage of the investigation."



Ross Bodkin, Stuart Osman, Colin Lloyd-Jones and Michael House were killed in an air blast on November 24, 1999.

The mine will today hold a private service for the families, friends and colleagues of the four men.

Northparkes says out of respect for the families, it will not comment until after the service.

USA: Crane accident kills worker at mining site in southeastern Kentucky

Extract from WHNT, Ky. USA

HAZARD, Ky. — State officials say a crane accident at a mining site in southeastern Kentucky has fatally wounded a worker.

WYMT-TV in Hazard reports that two workers were hurt around 6 p.m. EST Monday at a mine on High Rock Road in Perry County. The station reports that one person was flown to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and the other was taken by ground ambulance to University of Kentucky Hospital in Lexington.

Dick Brown, a spokesman with the state's Energy and Environment Cabinet, says one of the workers has died. Brown says state officials did not know the name of the mining company or what kinds of injuries the workers suffered.

Wednesday 25 November 2009

Tanzania: Address safety at small-scale mines

Editorial from TheCitizen, Tanzania

The deaths of four people at a small-scale gold mine in Tarime District points to a worrying trend that is becoming all too familiar.

The suffocation of the miners raises fresh queries on the safety of hundreds of small-scale mines in the country, coming a few months after a pit at a mine in Geita District caved, killing at least 30 people.

The two accidents and a string of other similar incidents that preceded them raise serious questions about the issue of safety in small-scale mining activities in the country.

NSW: Service to remember mine deaths

Extract from ABC Online, Aus

A memorial service will be held today to mark the 10th anniversary of the deaths of four men at the Northparkes Mine.



Northparkes Mine (photo I&I NSW)

It was only last year that at least 70 miners died when rainwater flooded a shaft at the Mererani tanzanite mines in Simanjaro District, Manyara Region. In 2002, 40 people suffocated in a shaft at the mines when a machine pumping in fresh air broke down. For how long will this be allowed to continue?

The problem is that small-scale mining is to a large extent unregulated in Tanzania, making the country's small-scale mines some of the most dangerous in Africa. Pits such as those in Tarime and Geita districts are veritable deathtraps as was seen yet again last week.

The way the pits are dug and the absence of rescue and other emergency services make it virtually impossible to carry out rescue and recovery operations in the event of an accident. The Mererani accidents of 2002 and last year and last weeks incident in Tarime District are a case in point.

Poor record keeping is another major problem at small-scale mines. This is the reason behind wildly conflicting casualty figures given after an accident. For instance, it is still not known exactly how many people died in the 2002 and last year's accidents in Mererani.

It's time frequent inspections were carried out at small-scale mines all over the country with a view to preventing further loss of life. Those found to be wanting insofar as safety is concerned should be blacklisted and closed down immediately.

Death toll rises to 15 in central China colliery blast

Extract from Xinhua, China

CHENXI, Hunan, -- The death toll from Sunday's colliery blast in central China's Hunan Province has risen to 15 as two more bodies were found Wednesday afternoon, local authorities said.

The two bodies were lifted out of the mine shaft at about 5:40 p.m. at Guojiawan Coal Mine in Chenxi County, in the city of Huaihua, a municipal work safety official said.

Rescue work concluded as all the trapped miners were either confirmed dead or rescued.

The mine has agreed to pay each family of the victims 280,000 yuan (40,996 U.S. dollars) in compensation.

The Chenxi County government has ordered all the mines in the county to suspend production for safety checks.

Altogether 33 people were working in the pit when the blast occurred at around 10 a.m. Sunday. A total of 14 people escaped and 19 were trapped.

Rescuers saved five people, but one of them died in hospital late Sunday.

The Guojiawan coal mine was founded in 1995 with a designed annual output of 30,000 tonnes.

Another fatal mine disaster on Sunday in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province had claimed 107 lives as of Wednesday and another miner remained trapped in the shaft.

Mining dictionary

A guide to common mining terminology

S

sluice
sluicing
sluice box

Washing alluvial material through a channel with riffles in its base for the capture of a heavy mineral released from its surrounding material. A sluice box is a wooden box for the purpose, while a ground sluice uses a channel cut into the ground.



Sluice box in a creek to separate gold from gravels

- Ed.