



# Mining Accident News No.1220

1 to 14 September 2012

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Monday 3 September 2012

## Philippines: Palace sends team to probe Davao mine accident

*Extract from philSTAR.com, Philippines*

DAVAO CITY , Philippines – President Aquino ordered an investigation into the landslide that occurred last Thursday at the gold mining site in the boundary of Tarragona and Mati City in Davao Oriental where 20 miners were reportedly trapped after three mine tunnels collapsed.

A special team from the Office of the Executive Secretary led by Assistant Secretary Gerry Cabrera of the Anti-Terrorism and Special Concerns arrived here yesterday afternoon and flew by helicopter to Tarragona.

Eight bodies were earlier reported to have been recovered from the landslide area in Sitio Bangol, Barangay Tubaon in Tarragona.

Cabrera flew back to Davao City after the aerial inspection.

The President reportedly wanted to get a clear picture of the incident at the mining site following conflicting reports on the actual number of casualties. While villagers claimed eight bodies have been retrieved from the area, local officials insisted that only one miner was injured.

## Botswana: Over 500 accidents recorded

*Extract from The Monitor, Botswana*

**Over the last 10 years, Botswana's mines have experienced over 540 accidents claiming 38 lives in the process.**

Statistics from the Department of Mines reveal that from 2002 to date, local mines had 544 mine accidents. In 2009, BCL Mine had 14 accidents, while Jwaneng recorded six, Tati three while Mowana and Orapa had two each. The Monitor also reports that Botash, Mupane Gold Mine, Belabela Quarries, Lobatse Quarry and Lobatse Clay Works each had one accident. However, the incidence of accidents shot up again in the following two years recording 60 and 67 in 2010 and 2011 respectively. In the four-year period, nine people died, two in 2009, three in 2010 and in 2011 one person died. As of July 2012, three people have already lost their lives in mines.

In the past two years, Jwaneng Mine has lost employees in mine accidents: In June 2011, work at the mine had to be halted after one of its contracted employees died after being electrocuted. Mine employee, Oscar Delpoort met his death when he was assembling an unpowered drill rig and the ladder he was using

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came into contact with exposed electric cables and he was electrocuted.

The 51-year-old Delport was a South African citizen, who joined Debswana in 2002 where he worked as a mechanic. One year later, the mine suffered another accident in which a life was also lost. Two months ago, a slope failure led to the collapse of the mine wall which buried 16 employees. Fifteen employees were rescued while another was found dead days later.

The employee, Motshwari Raseiteo had been employed as a General Shift Foreman in the Mining department since March 2012. Raseiteo was 34 years of age and is from Bray in the Kgalagadi District. He is survived by his wife and three children. Since 1984, the mine has had a good safety record, is ISO certified and acquired the lowest disabling injury incidents in Botswana. This year proved to be a difficult one for the diamond mines as another two people were killed while on duty. The two contract workers were killed when the ground at the entrance to a mine in the Ghaghoo underground mine in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve collapsed. The mine is owned by Gem Diamonds.

As of July 2012, three people had already lost their lives due to mine accidents as compared to one last year.

Tuesday 4 September 2012

## **China: 60 dead in mine tragedies**

*Extract from ChinaDaily.com*

The Jiangxi tragedy is the country's second serious coal mine blast within a week after a deadly accident in Sichuan province on Wednesday left 45 dead and one missing.

Rescuers found the body of the last miner, identified as Zhou Ping, in the shaft of Gaokeng Coal Mine in Pingxiang city in Jiangxi at about 3:10 pm, the rescue headquarters said in a statement.

Eleven injured miners are still receiving medical treatment at a local hospital. Of the six critically injured, five suffered burns to more than 50 percent of their bodies.

Thirty-eight miners were working in the mine when the accident occurred at about 12:55 pm Sunday. Twenty-three escaped the mine either on their own or were pulled to safety by rescuers.

A working team sent by the State Administration of Work Safety arrived at the accident site on Monday morning to direct the rescue work and its aftermath.

The mine is a subsidiary of the State-owned Jiangxi Coal Group Corp.

An investigation into the cause of the accident is under way.

In Panzhihua, Sichuan province, the death toll of Wednesday's mine blast has climbed to 45, as another body was retrieved late Sunday evening.

More than 2,000 search and rescue personnel, 300 of whom are professionals, are taking turns to look for the last miner trapped underground.

"They are sparing no efforts in the search and rescue operation although the chance of survival for the miner is slim, and they think he is in the core area of the explosion," said Mu Fei, deputy chief of the Panzhihua city government information office.

A total of 154 miners were in the Xiaojiawan Coal Mine in Panzhihua when the gas explosion happened at about 5 pm on Wednesday; 108 of them survived.

There was no gas sensor where the workers drilled - which would have automatically cut the power - so work continued despite the excessive amount of gas.

Yang Dongliang, head of the State Administration of Work Safety, said the lack of a gas sensor was a crime against miners.

"I felt very sad at the sight of the bodies of miners and their grieving relatives (in the Xiaojiawan Coal Mine)," he said.

Yang is head of the State Council investigation group that is probing the explosion, looking at whether government workers had been derelict in their duty, showed favoritism, or otherwise undermined the law.

The group is made up of leading officials from the State Administration of Work Safety, State Administration of Coal Mine Safety, National Energy Administration, Ministry of Supervision, the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and the Sichuan provincial government.

"There had been no major industrial accidents in Panzhihua for five years. As a result, vigilance had been lax in terms of work safety," said Panzhihua Mayor Zhang Yan.

On Sunday, a leading group of coal mine safety inspectors established themselves in the city. Thirty-three leading officials are heading 33 inspection teams to conduct a month-long safety production inspection.

Telephone numbers for people to report safety concerns will be available via the media. All 103 coal mines in the city have suspended operations.

"Mines which fail to meet safety requirements will be closed," Zhang said.

## **USA: Veteran worker dies in mining accident at Newmont's Exodus gold mine north of Carlin**

*Extract from The Republic, Columbus, Indiana, USA*

ELKO, Nev. — Federal mining safety regulators are investigating the death of a long-time worker at an underground gold mine in northeast Nevada.

Officials for the Newmont Mining Corp. confirmed that 49-year-old Allen Campbell of Spring Creek died in the accident about 2 p.m.

Friday at their Exodus mine 25 miles north of Carlin.

The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration reported a worker slipped or fell to his death at the mine on Friday but has released no other details.

### **Newmont regional Vice President Tom Kerr Sr. says they are saddened by the tragic loss of a longtime friend and colleague.**

Campbell started working for the Denver-based company in surfacing mining in 1988 and transferred to underground operations in 2001. He's survived by his wife, Julie, and two children.

### **Quote of the week**



**"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."**

**Theodore Roosevelt  
26<sup>th</sup> US president (1858-1919)**

Thursday 6 September 2012

## **Sudan: Mine Accident Kills Three and Injures Two**

*Extract from allAfrica.com*

Jebel 'Amer — Radio Dabanga was informed that three gold miners were killed and another two got injured after a well collapsed in Jebel 'Amer, El-Sref Beni Hussein locality in North Darfur. The accident happened on Wednesday, 5 September.

A victim's relative told Radio Dabanga that there were several miners working at the well when it collapsed. He reported that more than 17 people got killed or injured at Jebel 'Amer mines since the beginning of last year.

## This week in mining accident history

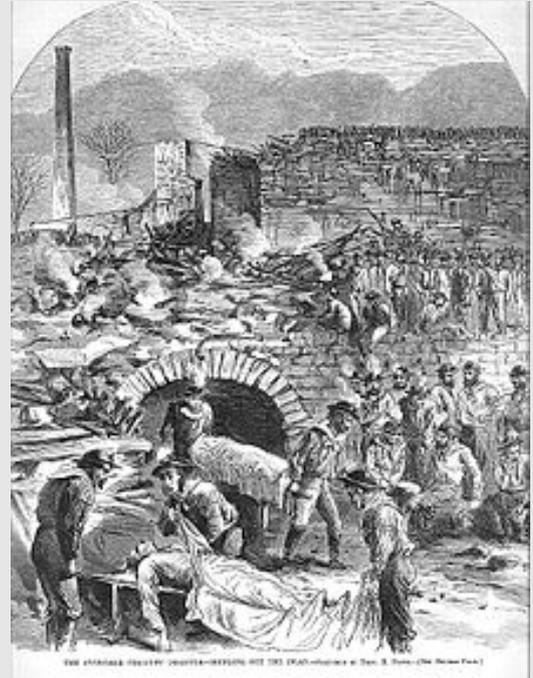
**6 September 1869**  
**Avondale Mine**  
**Plymouth, Pennsylvania, USA**  
**Underground coal mine**  
**Fire in shaft**  
**179 killed**

The **Avondale Mine Disaster** was a massive fire at the Avondale Colliery in Plymouth, Pennsylvania, United States on September 6, 1869. It caused the death of 179 workers (two fatalities were rescuers), making it one of the largest mining disasters of Pennsylvania history. A wooden breaker constructed over the shaft opening to the underground workings caught on fire. The shaft was the sole means of exit from the mine; consequently, the men working underground were trapped and died of suffocation. Among those who died were five boys ages 12 to 17.

Although gas hazards were due mainly to poor ventilation, many of the mines in (the) early days had but one shaft to the surface. One morning, in September, 1869, in an Avondale, Pa. mine, the wooden beams and planking lining the shaft were set afire by sparks from the ventilating furnace. Flames quickly made the shaft a roaring inferno which no man could approach. For hours, water was pumped into the shaft, and along towards evening rescue parties were able to ascend.

Catastrophes of the nature aroused tremendous public indignation. One result was the formation of a group known as the Molly Maguires, who raised havoc in the anthracite fields, being charged with the deaths of a large number of mine bosses. Although it is doubtful that the

Mollys had much effect on improving hazardous conditions, they kept the subject of safety and demonstrated how poor accident experience could be made an excuse for mob violence.



[A scene from after the Avondale mine disaster](#)

One of the first global relief efforts occurred after the disaster, with donations for the families of victims arriving from all over the world. Another result of the fire was the enacting by the Pennsylvania General Assembly of legislation establishing safety regulations for the coal mining industry, making Pennsylvania the first state to enact such legislation. These laws mandated, among other things, that there must be at least two entrances to underground mines.



[The Avondale Colliery Disaster – The heap of bodies first found behind an extemporized barricade. Harper's Weekly, NY, Sept 25, 1869](#)

**Editor's note:**

*The U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Mines, in publications on "Coal Mining Fatalities," and Coal Mining Disasters in the United States," issued in 1916 and 1946, gave the Avondale total fatality figure as 179.*

It is reported in other publications that the loss of life was 110 (includes two rescuers). It is thought that this number relates to the number of bodies recovered, rather than the actual dead. The following is from Harper's Weekly, Journal of Civilization, New York, Saturday, September 25, 1869:

*Monday morning, September 6th, 1869, the entire coal mining region of Pennsylvania, and in fact, the whole country, was startled by the telegraphic announcement that the coal breaker head house and other buildings over the shaft of the Avondale mine (formerly known as Steuben), situated in the Wyoming Valley, one mine below Plymouth, were on fire, and that "two hundred and two" human beings were thereby confined in the recesses of the mine, with little prospect of ever again seeing the light of day.*

Friday 7 September 2012

## **USA: Leaders from China receive mine training**

*Extract from [www.wowktv.com](http://www.wowktv.com), USA*

Several mining executives from China visited Logan County Thursday to learn the latest in mining safety.

The meeting was originally scheduled later in the month, but after a fatal accident in China last week, leaders rushed to West Virginia to start training as quickly as possible.

"The Chinese miner is just like our miner," said Carl Baisden, the director of the Academy for Mine Training and Energy Technologies at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College. "He has a career, he wants to go to work everyday, come home to his family and that's the same thing a miner in the U.S. wants."

So a group of mining executives from China trained at the Logan Mine Rescue Task Force

Thursday. Consider it like a boot camp for mine leaders in West Virginia and across the globe.

Volunteers from Alpha Natural Resource's rescue team demonstrated several mine disasters for the executives, who sat in the next room in the command center.



The academy is equipped with a simulated mine in its basement and all the equipment paramedics need to revive a patient.

By watching live video footage of the mine disaster in the basement, the executives can study the mines, direct the responders, and survey the accident so as to better help the injured.

"The more that we got to speak with the Chinese coal folks, the more we learned we're in the same situation," Baisden said. "We need this relationship to move forward."

Baisden said he hopes to continue this relationship with the Shanxi leaders.

The executives hail from the Shanxi province of China--the country's largest producer of coal. (Consider it the Boone County of China.) They added they want to add more first aid responders who can quickly treat mishaps inside the mine.

"The safety training is the most important aspect to coal miners not only in China but also in America," said Wang An Guo, the general manager of Shanxi Luan Group.

And those running the institution realize West Virginia may just be the bridge between nations...because all these people speak the same language: coal.

"It's just humbling to say that we can do that globally. That's one of the goals we've had at this institution, to be able to reach out and do things globally," said Joanne Tomblin, the president of Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

The academy has trained approximately 20,000 individuals in mine safety training without injury since it opened in 2006.

The task force has signed a partnership with Shanxi to train groups of miners in the future, Tomblin said.

Sunday 9 September 2012

## **China mine accident kills 10**

*Extract from wireupdate.com*

ZHANGYE, CHINA — Ten miners have been killed in an accident in a coal mine in northwest China, state media said Saturday, a week after an explosion killed 45 miners in another part of the country.

The Xinhua news agency said the accident occurred at the Huacaoton Coal Mine in Shandan County of Gansu Province at around 6:56 p.m. local time on Thursday evening, with the last body pulled from the mine early Saturday, according to a safety official.

The 10 workers fell off a platform when it overturned more than 200 metres above the bottom of the mine's shaft, which was flooded with water, the agency said.

Accidents in China's mines occur frequently.

Last week a gas explosion in a coal mine in the city of Panzhihua in Sichuan province killed 45 people, in the worst mining accident to hit the country this year.

China's mines are among the deadliest in the world due to lax regulation, corruption and inefficiency. Accidents are common because safety is often neglected by bosses seeking quick profits.

The latest official figures show 1,973 people died in coal mining accidents in China in 2011, a 19 percent fall on the previous year.

Labour rights groups, however, say the actual death toll is likely to be much higher, partly due to under-reporting of accidents as mine bosses seek to limit their economic losses and avoid punishment.

China is the world's biggest consumer of coal, relying on the fossil fuel for 70 percent of its growing energy needs.

## **11 trapped after coal mine accident in SW China**

*Extract from Xinhua*

Eleven people have been trapped underground after a coal-mine gas accident in Southwest China's Sichuan province Sunday afternoon, local authorities said.

The work safety department of the province said, the accident occurred at around 11:30 am in the Yongsheng coal mine in Wanyuan city under the jurisdiction of Dazhou city.

The rescue work is under way and the exact cause of the accident is still unknown.

Tuesday 11 September 2012

## **2 miners rescued, 9 still trapped in SW China colliery**

*Extract from Xinhua, China*

Rescuers pulled out two miners early Tuesday morning but nine others are still trapped underground nearly 40 hours after a gas burst at a colliery in southwest China.

The two miners were rescued at around 2:30 a.m. from the Yongsheng coal mine in Wanyuan City of Sichuan Province, sources with the rescue headquarters said.

Both miners were conscious and able to talk when they were lifted out, though they showed symptoms of some carbon monoxide poisoning,

said Zhu Zongwen, director of the health bureau of Wanyan City.

They received emergency treatment and were then sent to the Central Hospital of Wanyuan. Both are in stable condition, said Ding Xiaolin, head of the hospital.

The rescue of the other trapped miners continues.

A total of 24 people were working underground when the accident happened at around 11:30 a.m Sunday. Thirteen miners were lifted out shortly after the accident, and five of them were injured, including two poisoned by gas.

The owners of the mine are in the custody of police.

The Wanyuan government has ordered an overhaul of the city's coal mines and all production has been suspended for safety check-out.

## **USA: Miner killed in Drummond Mining Company's Shoal Creek Mine accident**

*Extract from al.com, Alabama, USA*

JEFFERSON COUNTY, Alabama -- A worker at Drummond Mining Company's Shoal Creek Mine was killed in an accident there this morning, according to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

The accident happened about 10:35 a.m. The worker was not identified.

According to a MSHA statement, the worker "was killed after being caught between a power center and the mine rib. The accident occurred during the move of a spare longwall power center."

The miner was given CPR during transport from underground, but was pronounced dead after being brought to the surface.

Darryl Dewberry, a representative for the United Mine Workers of America, identified the male victim as "an experienced miner." The man was

27-years-old and has been with Drummond Company, which operates the mine, since 2005.

Dewberry says the victim's name will be withheld until his next of kin can be notified.

According to a Department of Labor spokesperson, Jesse Lawder, MSHA personnel are conducting an accident investigation and mine operations will be suspended until it is completed.

A shuttle car engineer was killed in an accident there in March.

## **UPDATE**

JEFFERSON COUNTY, 12 Sep 2012, Alabama -- A miner killed in an accident Tuesday at Drummond Mining Company's Shoal Creek Mine was identified today by the Mine Safety and Health Administration as Julius Walker III, 28.

Wednesday 12 September 2012

## **Russia: Uralkali Informs About an Accident by Sinkhole Filling**

*Extract from www.4-traders.com*

Uralkali (LSE: URKA) informs that an accident happened on 12 September 2012 at 3:30 am local time during the repair works at the sinkhole which had appeared near the non-functional Berezniki Mining Construction Office on 4 December 2011. The sand and gravel mix that had been filled in the sinkhole subsided, which caused the death of an Uralkali Group's worker.

The Company expresses its deep condolences to the worker's family. The family will be provided with financial assistance.

Currently the repair works at the sinkhole have been suspended. In order to inquire into the causes of the accident a commission has been created, which includes among others the representatives of the Federal Service for Ecological, Technological and Nuclear Inspectorate (Rostekhnadzor), the Galurgia Project Institute and Mining Institute of the Urals

Affiliate of the Russian Academy of Science. Around the sinkhole area detailed surveillance has been organised. The occurred subsidence will not affect the Company's operational activities.



View of the sinkhole at the Berezniki Potash Mine. The collapse was caused by flooding of the underground mine.

Uralkali ([www.uralkali.com](http://www.uralkali.com)) is one of the world's largest potash producers with a market share of about 20%. The Company's assets consist of 5 mines and 7 ore-treatment mills situated in the towns of Berezniki and Solikamsk (Perm Territory, Russia). Uralkali employs ca. 12,500 people (in the main production unit).

## China: Rescue underway for 8 trapped in flooded mine

*Extract from Xinhua*

Rescue work is underway at the Guba Coal Mine in Longchang Township of Fuquan City, southwest China's Guizhou Province.

A coal mine flooding happened here Tuesday night, when 41 miners were working underground. Eight miners were trapped in the coal mine.

Thursday 13 September 2012

## S Africa: Explosion at Harmony, two miners killed

*Extract from The New Age, South Africa*

Two mine workers were killed and two others injured in an underground explosion at a

Harmony Gold mine in the Free State, the mine's management said on Thursday.

"Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited (Harmony) regrets to advise that two contracting employees died yesterday [Wednesday] afternoon, after an underground explosion occurred at its Joel mine near Theunissen," the company said.

Two other workers were injured in the accident and they were both in a stable condition.

All drilling and blasting operations at the mine had been stopped until investigations to establish the cause of the explosion were completed.

"Harmony's CEO Graham Briggs and his management team express their sincere condolences to the families and colleagues of the deceased," Harmony said.

## Mining dictionary

### A guide to coal mining terminology

#### B

**Borehole** Any deep or long drill-hole, usually associated with a diamond drill.



Diamond drill borehole

-Ed