



Mining Accident News No.1306

1 to 30 June 2013

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Sunday 2 June 2013

Second accident in three weeks at Papua mine kills truck driver

Extract from Radio New Zealand International, NZ

A second accident at Freeport McMoRan's copper mine in Indonesia's Papua province in

under three weeks, killed a driver, threatened to cause a prolonged closure there, and hit global supplies of the metal.

The company says driver Herman Wahid died on Friday after his truck was covered in wet muck, after a surge of wet ore material in the underground mine engulfed the truck he was operating, prompting a union official to call on his members to stop work at Grasberg, the world's second-biggest copper mine.

Mr Wahid was rushed to Tembagapura Hospital where doctors fought to save his life. The company says the circumstances were inconsistent with their safety protocols and are investigating the incident.

Earlier on Friday, Papua-based union official Virgo Solossa asked the company to stop all activities at the remote complex, and to review safety systems.

Freeport suspended operations at the complex in eastern Indonesia on May the 15th, a day after a training area tunnel, two kilometres away from the site of its main operations, caved in on 38 workers.

Twenty-eight people died in the disaster, one of the worst mining accidents in Indonesia's history.

Monday 3 June 2013

USA: Miner killed at Newmont Exodus Underground Mine

Extract from Elko Daily Free Press

A miner at Newmont Mining Corp.'s Exodus Underground Mine, Nevada, Corey Vasquez, was killed Sunday while operating a loader during the night shift.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Corey's family, and we are providing all possible assistance during this tragic time," said Newmont Director of External Relations Mary

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Korpi. "As we reach out to Corey's family and share in their grief, we must remain focused on ensuring the personal safety of all our employees and contractors."

The accident occurred at about 8:15 p.m. in the mine 25 miles north of Carlin in Eureka County. Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Nevada Mine Inspector's Office were notified immediately.

"We are working with them to thoroughly investigate the cause of this accident," Korpi said. "We appreciate the assistance of employees and the Eureka County Sheriff's Office who responded quickly following the event."

No other information on the accident was available. More details on the victim will be shared when they become available.

This is the second fatal accident in a Nevada mine this year.

The first was Jan. 21 at the Apex Quarry and Plant in Clark County. Apex is owned by Lhoist North America of Arizona Inc.

A 54-year old mechanic with six years of experience was killed at a lime operation. The victim went to a kiln pre-heat deck to repair a leaking hydraulic cylinder that activates a pusher arm on the kiln. He was caught between the corner of the angle iron and the plate connecting the push rods.

Vasquez's fatal accident is the eighth death in metal and non-metal mines and the 16th death in any mine in the country for 2013.

This is the second fatality in less than a year in the Exodus Underground.

Allen Campbell, 49, of Spring Creek died in an accident Aug. 31.

Campbell fell through a hole that had developed beneath bridged material in an open stope, according to an MSHA report. He "fell approximately 90 feet from the drift he was working into the muck pile on the level below."

Central China mine blast kills 10, injures 15

Extract from Xinhua

Ten people have been confirmed dead and 15 others injured in a mine explosion that occurred on Sunday in central China's Hunan Province, local authorities said Monday.

The blast occurred around 7:55 p.m. Sunday at the Simachong Coal Mine in Shaodong County in the city of Shaoyang, an official from the county publicity department said.

Thirty-nine miners were working underground when the accident happened. Twenty-nine were rescued, the official said.

All 15 injured miners were rushed to a local hospital, where two remain in critical condition, the official said.

Police have detained eight people believed to be responsible for the blast, including the mine's legal representative and managers.

A further investigation into the accident is under way.

Tuesday 4 June 2013

Africa: SEMAFO Reports Fatal Incident at Mana

Extract from Junior Mining Network.com

MONTREAL, QUEBEC - SEMAFO Inc. regrets to report that a Burkinabe employee drowned in an isolated incident at the Corporation's Mana Mine in Burkina Faso. The accident occurred on Sunday while the employee was working on a sump pump in one of the main pits. Operations in the immediate area of the accident were suspended temporarily.

The emergency response team was immediately deployed and is working in collaboration with the relevant local authorities to determine the cause of the accident.

Management have conveyed their sincere condolences to the family and colleagues of the deceased employee.

SEMAFO is a Canadian-based mining company with gold production and exploration activities in West Africa. The Corporation currently operates three gold mines: the Mana Mine in Burkina Faso, the Samira Hill Mine in Niger and the Kiniero Mine in Guinea.

Saturday 8 June 2013

USA: No. 7 Mine West accident investigation underway

Extract from CBS42, USA

A fatality occurred at Walter Energy's No. 7 Mine West in Tuscaloosa County around 6:15 PM on June 6, 2013. The employee was identified as Christopher G. Brown, 36, of Pleasant Grove (Jefferson County). Mr. Brown was a supervisor at the mine and had worked there for five years.

While an investigation is underway, preliminary reports indicate Mr. Brown was working underground on or near a conveyor belt when the incident happened.

Federal and state mining agencies are investigating the incident as well as the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Department, safety officials with Walter Energy and the United Mine Workers of America.

Walter Energy would like to convey its deep condolences to Mr. Brown's family. Employees at both No. 7 Mine West and No. 7 Mine East were sent home after the incident and the owl shift and day shift will not report to work to honor a 24 hour mourning period.

Christopher Brown leaves behind a wife and three children ages 1, 7, and 12.

Tuesday 11 June 2013

UK: Miner seriously injured in coal-mining accident

Extract from Chad, UK

A man fighting for his life following an accident at a South Yorkshire coal-mining pit is believed to be from Mansfield Woodhouse.

The 50-year-old is said to be in a critical condition and has undergone major surgery on his abdomen following the accident at Hatfield Colliery.

Although unconfirmed, he has been named locally as Richard Hodgkinson, and it is understood that he was hit by a blast from a high-pressure hose during the day shift at the main gate section of the colliery's HO6's coal face.

The Mines Inspectorate yesterday launched an investigation into the incident.

Thursday 13 June 2013

Ghana to end child labour, protect safety of adult artisanal miners

Extract from AfriqueJet News

HRW urges Ghana to end child labour, protect safety of adult artisanal miners - A recent mining accident that killed 16 people at an unlicensed artisanal gold mine in Ghana underscores the need for tougher measures to end child labor and protect the safety of adult artisanal miners, Human Rights Watch said Thursday.

On 15 April, a mud wall collapsed in a large open pit at a gold mine where over 20 people were working near Kyekyewere, Upper Denkyira East District, Central Ghana.

A few of the miners were pulled from the mud with injuries, but 16 died. Among the victims was a 17-year-old boy named Abroso Kwabena Donkor, an orphan who had dropped out of school at 15 to work in the mines.

"Mining is one of the most hazardous types of work in the world," Juliane Kippenberg, senior children's rights researcher at Human Rights Watch, was quoted to have said in a statement by the global rights body in Johannesburg, South Africa. "Ghana's government needs to get children out of those mines and make it a priority to regulate the country's artisanal gold mining."

PANA quoted the rights body as saying it interviewed 20 members of the community near the site of the mine collapse, including 8 children who worked in or near the mine and 5 witnesses to the collapse, as well as government authorities in Upper Denkyira East district and the capital, Accra.

Children from nearby villages worked regularly at the accident site. Children as young as 12 carried and processed the ore and sold the raw gold they mined directly to local traders.

HRW said a third of Ghana's children between the ages of 5 and 14 are working, and that a 2006 International Labor Organization (ILO) study found that about 10,000 children were working in the country's artisanal gold mines.

Children who work in artisanal gold mining risk ill-health or accidents from deep falls into pits, collapsing pits, flying rocks or shards, dangerous tools and machinery, continued exposure to dust, transport of heavy loads, and the use of toxic mercury.

Under Ghanaian law, work in mining is explicitly prohibited for anyone under 18. Ghana has ratified international standards on child labor, including ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

Although the government has developed an action plan and put in place a national steering committee to address child labor, such efforts rarely reach the artisanal mines.

The few programmes that address child labor in mining are run by international agencies and nongovernmental organizations and are limited in scope.

"The government should inspect licensed and unlicensed mines for child labor," Kippenberg said. "Children risk their lives in these mines."

Friday 14 June 2013

WA: Probe continues into mine mishaps

Extract from ABC News Online, Aus

The Department of Mines and Petroleum says it continues to investigate two mine accidents earlier this year in Western Australia's Goldfields.

A man in his 50s sustained two broken legs and a fractured skull in a rockfall at a nickel mine in Kambalda in February.

In March, a miner at a La Mancha mine site, west of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, was seriously injured in a separate rockfall.

The department says the investigations are ongoing.

Meanwhile, the St Ives mine in Kambalda remains closed off as inquiries continue into two incidents this week which left two workers with broken bones.

Senior Indonesia mine staff suspended over deadly accident

Extract from Straight Times, Singapore

TIMIKA, Indonesia - Four senior employees of a US mining company accused by unions of being at fault over a deadly Indonesian mine accident have been suspended after workers threatened to strike, the firm said on Friday.

Unions at Freeport-McMoRan's Grasberg, a huge gold and copper mine in eastern Papua province, called off a strike that had been due to begin on Friday after the employees - who included three foreigners - were suspended.

They had demanded the move, accusing the staff members of being at fault over the May 14

tunnel collapse at Grasberg which left 28 people dead.

A strike would have been another blow to the troubled operation after production was suspended pending the outcome of a probe into the accident. A previous strike in 2011 lasted three months and crippled production

Tuesday 18 June 2013

Govt Team Discovers Cause of Freeport Accident, Says Mining May Resume Soon

Extract from JakartaGlobe

A government team investigating the tunnel collapse at Freeport Indonesia's Grasberg mine in Papua has said that a decomposing support structure was the cause of the accident that killed 28 workers last month, and that open-pit mining at the site may be able to resume soon.

The team completed its probe into the case and reported its findings to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources on Monday, team head Ridho Wattimena said on Tuesday.

Separately, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Jero Wacik said he was still waiting for a written report on the investigation results, but explained that the team discovered that the underground tunnel collapsed because a segment of the mine's infrastructure was decaying.

"The soil was strong. But then water penetrated the inside and caused decomposition, altering the strength of the supporting structure. I've asked that this is thoroughly examined," Jero said.

He added that the expert team declared the open pit to be relatively safe, except for a few areas vulnerable to landslides. "They've recommended to me that the open pit can be reopened, so that work can resume and tax revenue can come in again."

But Jero said the government would not abruptly allow mining activities to resume, despite the government team's recommendation and requests from both Freeport and the local government of the Papua district of Mimika, where the mine is located, for continued operations.

"We'll make a decision this weekend as to whether or not the open-pit mining can continue. Our first priority will remain safety at workplaces."

A tunnel in the underground training facility at the Big Gossan area of Freeport's Grasberg mine collapsed on May 14, trapping 38 workers inside. Ten were rescued, but 28 others were found dead.

The Indonesian unit of Arizona-based Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold briefly resumed open-pit mining production on May 28, but after a worker was killed in a separate accident, the government asked the company to suspend operations until the government investigation was completed. The probe was initially forecast to take up to three months.

Freeport declared force majeure on June 12 on the shipment of copper and gold to its customers pending separate investigations by the government and the company.

The firm said in statement that the stoppage at the Papua mine — the world's second largest copper mine — resulted in an impact of 80 million pounds of copper and 80,000 ounces of gold as of June 11, and that it would continue to book a loss of 3 million pounds of copper and 3,000 ounces of gold a day until operations resume.

Miner dies in freak accident at TNMC

Extract from Mmegionline, Botswana

FRANCISTOWN: A bulldozer operator at Aveng Moolmans, a company subcontracted by Tati Nickel Mining Company's (TNMC)

Phoenix operations has died in a freak accident on Saturday morning.

The death of the miner, believed to be 30-years old, is the third fatality recorded by TNMC since the mine opened more than a decade ago. Unconfirmed reports suggest that the operator is said to have earlier on reported, while working on levelling the tail-end of the mine's waste dump, that his machine was not functioning properly. The waste dump is about 58 metres high. The team on the ground allegedly lost track of him after he reported the malfunctioning truck. It is during this period that the unforeseen is thought to have happened. At the time of going to press, it was not clear how the miner died. His body was reportedly discovered outside the bulldozer by his colleagues. He is said to have had extensive head injuries and a deep laceration on his thigh. The bulldozer reportedly continued its head-long motion from the tail end of the pit until it ploughed into fences of nearby ploughing fields of Pobepobe lands.

A courageous individual said to have been previously in the employ of Moolmans reportedly jumped on to the bulldozer and applied the brakes. TNMC public relations manager Tebogo Rapitsenyane confirmed the incident through a press statement yesterday. "At this point in time we don't have the finer details of what transpired but we will only have them once a mandatory investigation/inquiry by the Department of Mines is complete, and it is currently on. The name of the deceased is currently withheld until the family and relatives are informed of the incident," he said in the press statement. TNMC visited those whose fences were affected in the nearby fields to comfort them and assure them of their safety, Rapitsenyane said.

Matsiloje station commander Superintendent Obert Manji confirmed the incident yesterday. He said police were yet to establish the cause of the death. The director of Mines could not be reached for comment at the time of going to press as his mobile phone rang unanswered for the better part of Monday morning. The last fatal

accident in the mining industry was recorded last July when a Debswana employee in Jwaneng, Motshwari Raseiteo, died after a slope failure.

USA: Ex-Massey official asks judge for leniency in conspiracy case

Extract from The Republic

A former Massey Energy executive who is cooperating with the criminal investigation into the Upper Big Branch mine disaster is asking a judge for leniency when she sentences him Aug. 1.

David Hughart's life has been ruined by the "terrible negativity" and publicity surrounding his case, which his defense attorney says has unfairly linked him to the April 2010 explosion that killed 29 men.

Hughart worked for a different Massey subsidiary, left the company long before the blast and "never worked a day at UBB," attorney Michael Whitt said in a sentencing memorandum for U.S. District Judge Irene Berger. Yet, "he has gone from affluent to totally destitute as a result of his crime."

Hughart pleaded guilty to two federal charges of conspiracy in February, admitting he worked with others to give miners at another Massey subsidiary, White Buck Coal Co., illegal advance warning about surprise federal inspections. At his plea hearing, Hughart implicated former chief executive Don Blankenship in the scheme.

Massey is now owned by Virginia-based Alpha Natural Resources, and Blankenship has long since retired.

Hughart faces up to six years in prison and a fine of up to \$350,000 when he is sentenced. He doesn't contest his crimes but contends none of his actions "can be linked to any actual mining injury."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Steve Ruby, however, urges the court to consider a stiffer sentence

because the conspiracy endangered miners' lives.

"Common sense dictates that when a defendant risks other people's lives and health, that fact must be accounted for in fashioning his sentence," Ruby wrote. Treating this conspiracy like one that created only financial harm "would understate the seriousness of this offense."

Hughart's cooperation has been valuable, Ruby said, and it's possible it will eventually warrant a request or leniency. But he said it's too soon to determine that now.

Hughart was president of "an important Massey subsidiary." Ruby said. "He enjoyed vast discretion over the mines and facilities that were under his direction, and he used it to flout the law on miners' health and safety."

Whitt says his client now sees the error of his ways and understands that he was wrongly informed that the company had the legal right to warn workers when inspections were imminent.

"David has come to know that mine safety laws are not suggestions," Whitt wrote. "... Prison can do nothing to reinforce this fact."

Hughart, he said, "deeply regrets his criminal conduct and that such conduct was part of 'business as usual' under former Massey management."

A former Upper Big Branch superintendent and security chief are already behind bars for similar actions at that mine.

Saturday 22 June 2013

USA: Mining accident reported at Speed Mining in Kanawha County

Extract from wowktv.com

According to dispatchers, a mining accident was reported at Speed Mining, located in Dawes, West Virginia.

Dispatchers say it happened just after 10 p.m. Friday.

According to those dispatchers, an underground miner was pinned under a piece of machinery.

Medics were able to free the miner, and dispatchers said they brought him above ground.

Dispatchers added that the patient is moving and walking around.

Monday 24 June 2013

Fiji: Miner dies in accident

Extract from The Fiji Times Online

A VATUKOULA Gold Mine Limited employee is dead after an underground incident at the mine yesterday.

Police spokeswoman Ana Naisoro confirmed the incident yesterday.

She said while the full details were yet to be confirmed, police investigations into the mining accident had begun.

The mine's general manager, Dave Whittle, said the company was committed to a thorough investigation of the underground accident.

"At this time, all attention on the mine are focused on ensuring a full and thorough investigation in conjunction with the Mineral Resources Department and the Fiji police," he said in a media release.

"VGML extends its condolences to the family and friends of the deceased and will be doing everything possible to ease their suffering at this difficult time."

Africa: Gold Mine Collapse Kills At Least 37

Extract from The Inquisitr

A gold mine collapse has killed at least 37 miners in the Central African Republic. African government officials have announced the disaster, which happened yesterday in Ndassima.

The workers were trapped and killed when the mine collapsed under pressure from heavy rains. Prosper Ndouba, a spokesman for the presidency, made the announcement. As reported by *Reuters*, three days of national mourning have been imposed on the entire country.

Officials warn that the preliminary death toll may rise as only 10 workers were found alive. The total number of trapped miners is currently unknown. The numbers may increase as the rescue efforts continue.

The gold mine collapse is another grim reminder of the perils of mining. Despite efforts to follow safety requirements, a collapse can happen at any time. Heavy rains, which cause structural damage, only increase the danger.

Underground mines are especially dangerous as there is often little warning of collapse and nowhere to run. The rescue efforts could take weeks as tons of dirt, rock, and debris must be removed to recover the workers.

As the Central African Republic's most profitable industry, mining has come under intense scrutiny. It has long been suspected that diamond profits are used to fund rebel groups, hence the term "conflict diamonds" or "blood diamonds."

Officials have stated that only 1 percent of diamonds worldwide are considered "conflict diamonds." However, the negative association persists.

Gold mining is not as profitable as diamond mining, and it does not carry as much of a negative stigma. However, gold is quite plentiful in the region. As reported by *MBendi.com*, several tons of gold are mined every year in the Central African Republic.

The mining industry is very profitable. However, one accident can take the lives of dozens. A gold mine collapse has killed at least 37, and the death toll is expected to rise. Central African officials continue their efforts to assess the damage.

5 dead, 2 missing in N China mining fire

Extract from Xinhua

Five people have died and another two are missing after a fire broke out on Sunday in a passageway in a mine in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, local authorities said on Monday.

The fire happened at around 1 p.m. at Rongda Mining Limited Liability Company, in Xin Barag Right Banner of Hulun Buir City, when seven miners were working underground, the regional work safety bureau said.

Search teams are looking for the two missing people. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Tuesday 25 June 2013

USA: 2 injured in Armstrong County mine collapse

Extract from wpxi.com, USA

KITTANNING, Pa. — Authorities said two miners were injured in a partial ceiling collapse in an Armstrong County coal mine.

The collapse happened Monday afternoon at the Tracy Lynne mine operated by Rosebud Mining of Kittanning.

Rosebud Mining Company Vice President Jim Barker told Channel 11 News that the workers were hanging curtain about 400 feet underground when a heavy rock fell on them.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection said a section of the rock struck two miners, but the injuries were not life-threatening. Officials said no other injuries were reported.

Rick Murphy of the state Bureau of Mine Safety said the two miners were taken to a hospital, including one with a possible knee injury.

The miners were brought to the surface just after 6 p.m. Barker said because the workers were in

such a tight space, it took crews about an hour to get them out.

"It just takes a while whenever you have individuals who are not able to drive as fast underground to get them out," Barker said. "You want to go nice and slow."

State and federal mine officials are investigating.

Wednesday 26 June 2013

Botswana: TNMC concludes inquiry on fatal mine accident

Extract from Mmegionline, Botswana

FRANCISTOWN: A confidential incident flash report compiled by Tati Nickel Mining Company (TNMC) early this week says a bulldozer operator who died last week could have met his fate after jumping from the machine as it went down a waste dump slope.

The report further states that 30-year old Ntesang Raditsebe was instructed by the plant operator to move to a safer area for repairs after he reported that one of the dozer's tracks was loose. The report says Raditsebe could have sustained a head injury with a possible skull fracture after jumping out of the moving dozer. The bulldozer continued its head-long motion from the tail end of the pit until it hit the fence of nearby Pobepobe farms.

A courageous individual who has previously been in the employ of Moolmans jumped on to the bulldozer and applied the brakes, the report says. Yesterday, Botswana Mine Workers Union (BMWU) secretary general Bob Malele expressed concern that the union is never given mine accident reports.

"If reports about mine accidents are availed to us we can also have a hand in how future accidents can be averted. We recently raised this concern with the Minister of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources, Kitso Mokaila, and our hope is that the situation will change in the near future," he said. TNMC spokesperson

Tebogo Rapitsenyane confirmed the incident report yesterday. "I, however, cannot communicate the details because I am not in the office. I am on my way to Palapye to attend an event," he said.

He added that the incident report does not provide much detail about the accident. "Much detail will be provided by findings of the Department of Mines who have embarked on an investigation". Findings that will detail how Raditsebe could have died will be available after 45 days or longer depending on the complexity of the accident. The announcement was made yesterday by the Department of Mines, which has started an inquiry into the death of the Aveng Moolman's employee.

The acting director of the Department of Mines Gabotshwarege Tshekiso further told Mmegi, "Findings of the investigations will be taken to the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) to determine if anyone can be charged with an offence regarding the accident. TNMC will also be furnished with the findings of the investigations but they will not be made public".

He added that the district commissioner, the labour department as well as the office of birth and death registration will also be furnished with the report. He said his department will indicate how the accident could have been averted. He said neither TNMC nor Moolmans will be fined for the accident.

"Fines are usually imposed by our department on accidents that are not fatal. If we fine people for fatal accidents it means the DPP cannot take action against someone found to be negligent during fatal accidents. That is why we don't fine for fatal accidents," he said. Raditsebe worked as a bulldozer operator for Aveng Moolmans, a company subcontracted to do mining at TNMC. He died in the wee hours of last Saturday following an accident involving a dozer he was operating. On the day, the deceased was working on a 58 metres high mine tailings dump, pushing the rejected material from a conveyer belt.

Thursday 27 June 2013

Africa: Death toll in CAR mining accident rises

Extract from www.iol.co.za

Bangui - At least 57 miners were killed when a tunnel collapsed at a gold mine in Central African Republic, the father of two of the victims told dpa on Thursday.

He said 64 miners were working in the pit in the village of Ndassima, 450 kilometres north-east of the capital Bangui, at the time of the incident on Sunday.

Rescuers were still searching for bodies.

Interim president Michel Djotodia declared three days of mourning on Tuesday.

The poverty-stricken country, which has been in political turmoil since a military coup in March, has rich in gold and diamond resources.

Saturday 29 June 2013

USA: Remembering the Hanna Mine Explosion of 1903

Extract from [Rawlins Times](#), by Han Cheung

Sunday marks the 110th anniversary of the deadliest mining incident in Wyoming.

Official numbers indicate that 169 miners in Hanna lost their lives the morning of June 30, 1903 in a huge explosion at Mine No. 1. Many of the victims were immigrant miners from Finland.

The news was immediately reported in all the area newspapers: The Rawlins Republican, Carbon County Journal, Saratoga Sun and Grand Encampment Herald.

The Carbon County Journal called the incident "Hanna's Horror" and the Rawlins Republican used the term "Hanna Holocaust."

The number of miners underground at the time of the explosion varied from report to report, ranging from 215 to 280. The Rawlins

Republican newspaper claimed that 46 escaped alive.

"It is impossible to state what caused the explosion, or in exactly what portion of the mine it occurred," the Rawlins Republican reported on July 1. "There has always been more or less gas in the mine, but great care has always been taken to keep the mines ventilated."

The Carbon County Journal speculated that it was caused by "gas which worked its way in from the old workings which have been on fire for a number of years and which were walled off."

Just a month earlier, the mine passed a state inspection with flying colors, with the report stating there to be "no standing gases."

Nancy Anderson of the Hanna Basin Historical Society told the Daily Times in 2003 that the explosion could have either been caused by ignited methane or coal dust.

Relatives of the miners gathered around the mine entrance, awaiting news of their loved ones. Unfortunately, body after body was brought out.

"Standing in groups are mothers, wives, sisters and children of the lost men, black and white, native and foreign, all united in a common grief," The Grand Encampment Herald reported.

"Nearly everyone in town lost someone in the mine," a witness told the Denver Post in 1978. "My father, a miner in No. 1, was on the night shift that week so he wasn't injured. But his two brothers and four nephews perished."

The gas coming out of the mine impeded rescue efforts.

"The rescuing party is being driven back by the increasing gas and is further from the bodies of the dead than it was yesterday," the Carbon County Journal reported on July 3.

Rescue workers appeared to be able to overcome the situation a few weeks later. Fifty bodies were recovered by July 18.

“Men have fought back the gas, good progress being made at Hanna,” The Carbon County Journal reported.

Most of the miners are buried in marked and unmarked graves in Hanna and Carbon cemeteries.

Union Pacific Coal Company representatives reached a settlement with relatives of 41 of the victims by Aug. 22.

According to the Rawlins Republican, widows residing in the United States were paid \$800, while those in foreign countries were paid \$350. The company paid an additional \$50 for each minor child. Single male relatives were paid \$350.

“Expected that other cases we be settled on a similar basis,” the article read.

Mine No. 1 reopened in 1904, but another tragic explosion in 1908 closed it for good.

A memorial in Hanna honors the 228 total victims from both incidents.

This week in mining accident history

Month: June
Scottish Mines
Underground coal

28 June 1859

Coal Pit Accident - On Tuesday last a man named James Cairns met with a very severe accident in one of Mr Wilson's pits, by a fall of coal, by which he was severely injured. He was brought home to Wishaw in a cart. [Hamilton Advertiser July 2 1859]

1 June 1860

Pit Accident - On Friday the 1st inst., Andrew Whiteside, collier, Cambusnethan was engaged filling hutches at No 1 Pit at Stonecraigs, Newmains, when a fall of coal from the roof came down upon him, whereby both his legs were broken above the knee, and he was severely cut on the forehead. He is being

attended by Dr Macnab. [Hamilton Advertiser June 9 1860]

16 June 1884

Muirkirk – Fatal Accident - Thomas Haugh, engineman, was killed on Sunday morning at Galawhistle pit, Glenbuck, his head having been crushed by the connecting rod of the water engine wheels. He was engaged cleaning at the time. He was 20 years of age and unmarried. [Scotsman 17 June 1884]

12 June 1917

Fatal Accident At Dundonald - William Beattie, 54 years of age, pit repairer, residing at 54 Dundonald Den, Cardenden, met with a serious accident in the West Mine of Dundonald Colliery on Tuesday evening. While at work he was buried by a heavy fall that came away from the roof. He was severely injured internally and his back was broken. Death took place before he was extricated. Deceased leaves a widow and six of a family, most of them being grown up. [Dunfermline Journal 16 June 1917]

20 June 1923

Miner Killed At Cardenden – A miner was killed on Wednesday in the Lochgelly Coal Company's Dundonald colliery at Cardenden. He was identified as Thomas Davidson, 25, a married man living at Denside, Cardenden. A large mass of stone fell from the roof and gave the deceased no chance of saving himself. [Dunfermline Journal 23 June 1923]

Mining dictionary

A guide to coal mining terminology

C

Car A railway wagon, especially any wagons adapted to carrying coal, ore, and waste underground.