



# Mining Accident News No.1307

1 to 31 July 2013

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Wednesday 3 July 2013

## USA: Federal Officials Investigate Saline County Mine Death

*Extract from wsiltv.com*

SALINE COUNTY -- The Saline County Coroner's Office has released the name of the miner killed at Wildcat Hills Mine.

Nathanial D. Clarida, 35, of Eldorado, was pronounced dead at the mine just after 2 p.m. Tuesday after being hit by a ram car hauling coal through the ventilation curtain of the underground coal mine.

An autopsy was conducted Wednesday at the White County Morgue in Carmi. Coroner Jerry Watson says the preliminary cause of death is blunt force trauma.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration has closed the mine as it conducts an investigation.

Funeral arrangements for Clarida are pending at Sloan Funeral Home in Galatia.

Thursday 4 July 2013

## NZ: Pike River 'employment related disaster of a generation', court told

*Extract from tvnz.co.nz*

A lawyer acting for the Crown in the sentencing of Pike River Coal Ltd says the tragedy that killed 29 men in 2010 is the worst employment-related disaster of a generation.

Families of the miners turned up en masse to the Greymouth District Court this morning for the sentencing of the company, which was found guilty of nine charges relating to safety in April.

Victim impact statements from the families were read this afternoon, with the court due to reconvene tomorrow morning for sentencing.

Following the statements, Crown lawyer Mark Zarifeh told the court the explosion was the most serious health and safety failure to have occurred in New Zealand under the Health and Safety Employment Act 1992.

"The Pike River explosion can be said to be the employment-related disaster of a generation," he said.

**NOTE:** Views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual sender, and are not associated with ANY organisation, individual or publication

Mr Zarifeh said the last most recent tragedy was the explosion of Ralph's Mine in Huntly in 1914 when 43 men died.

"This case is as serious as one can contemplate under this Act, not only with regards to the breathtaking admissions of failures by the company, but also in terms of the number of men that were killed," he said.

The lawyer said he hoped that lessons would be learnt from the tragedy to prevent it from being repeated.

### **'Very little value placed on the lives of the 29 men'**

Earlier today, the mother of a Michael Monk, a man killed in the disaster, told the court not knowing if her son had been killed in the days and weeks after the explosions had been a "nightmare".

"We are disgusted that to this day no one from Pike River Coal has apologised to our family for the loss of Michael," Kath Monk said.

"It makes us feel there is very little value placed on the lives of the 29 men."

Ms Monk said she did not expect the public to appreciate her family's need for closure, but expected empathy.

Bernie Monk supported his wife Kath as she read out her victim impact statement.

Anna Osbourne, who lost her husband Milton, wiped away tears as she said she could not move forward with her life.

"I live this devastating nightmare everyday," she said.

"I long for the return of my husband's remains so I can give [him] a proper burial and the proper farewell he deserves."

She said the disaster had been totally avoidable, and was no accident.

After the victim impact statements had been read, Crown lawyer Mark Zarifeh told the hearing that the the Pike River tragedy had been

the "employment-related disaster of a generation".

### **Guilty**

In April, PRCL was found guilty on nine charges of failing to ensure the safety of workers at the mine.

In her finding, Judge Jane Farish went one step further, finding the company guilty of causing the deaths of the men.

Judge Farish found the breaches by PRCL were causes of the explosion and the subsequent deaths of the men who perished.

She also highlighted the fact that there was almost a complete absence of risk assessment at the mine, especially in the week leading up to the explosion.

Back then, the families felt some relief that the company was being held to account, and took a little comfort from the fact that it was found culpable for the deaths of their sons, fathers and husbands.

Mr Monk said it was not about money for the families, it was about accountability. They wanted to see legislation changes and a push to make people working underground in New Zealand safe.

Each of the nine charges, laid by the former Department of Labour, can incur a maximum fine of \$250,000 for failures relating to methane explosion management, mitigating the impact of an explosion and health and safety management for contractors and employees.

PRCL, which went into receivership a month after the explosion, did not defend the charges, and the receiver has made the financial status of the failed company known to the judge.

## **Contractor dies in accident at Centerra Gold's Mongolian operation**

TORONTO – TSX-listed gold miner Centerra Gold on Thursday said a contract worker had

died in an accident at its Boroo mine, in Mongolia, on Wednesday.

The contractor was driving a light duty vehicle when it was involved in a rollover at the tailings facility.

The driver, who was the sole occupant of the vehicle, died in the accident.

Centerra said the local government authorities and relevant regulatory bodies were contacted.

"We are deeply saddened by this event and extend our condolences to the family," the company said in a statement

Friday 5 July 2013

## Four die in illegal mining accident in S China

*Extract from ChinaDaily, USA*

NANNING - Four people died while attempting to illegally mine in a closed coal mine in South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region on Thursday, local authorities said on Friday.

Four people were found dead in the mine around 8:40 pm Thursday. The mine is located in the village of Matian in Quanzhou county in the provincial capital of Guilin, according to a statement from Quanzhou's publicity department.

The precise cause of the villagers' deaths is not yet known. A further investigation is under way.

## Quote of the week

"What you cannot enforce, do not command."

Sophocles

Ancient Greek playwright (496BC – 406BC)

Saturday 6 July 2013

## Jilin officials, executives punished over deadly fire, colliery blasts

*Extract from Xinhua, China*

BEIJING, -- More than 100 Chinese officials and enterprise executives found to be responsible for two deadly workplace accidents were prosecuted, sacked, demoted or given disciplinary punishment, the State Council said Saturday.

The State Council, or China's cabinet, said in a statement it had approved an investigation report regarding the two deadly accidents in northeastern province of Jilin as well as a punishment proposal for those responsible for the accidents that left 174 people dead in total.

Thirty-five people including government officials and company executives would be transferred to the judicial authorities for prosecution, while 73 others, including Jilin's deputy governor Gu Chunli, deputy governor and police chief Huang Guanchun, and former top work safety official Jin Hua, have been given disciplinary sanctions.

The Jilin provincial government was ordered by the State Council to conduct self-criticism.

A fire ripped through a poultry plant owned by the Jilin Baoyuanfeng Poultry Company in Dehui City on June 3, leaving 121 dead and 76 injured.

The fire came months after two coal mine blasts that occurred on March 29 and April 1, respectively, at the Babao Coal Mine in Baishan City, Jilin Province, killed 53 people and injured 20 others.

Both cases are "extraordinarily significant liability accidents," the report said, indicating human errors, particularly the lack of work safety supervision, are to blame.

In the Dehui fire accident, an electrical short has been identified as the direct cause, and the short ignited "combustible goods" nearby and the heat

set off "physical explosions" of ammonia equipment and pipelines, according to the report.

Meanwhile, lack of safety measures within the workshop as well as lax supervision by fire-control, construction, and work safety supervision authorities are also to blame for the accident, the report said.

Nineteen people including the company's board chairman Jia Yushan, general manager Zhang Yushen, and firefighting officials in Dehui and Changchun, capital of Jilin, as well as local government officials were subject to judicial punishment.

Apart from deputy governor Huang Guanchun, those who were given disciplinary punishment also include Changchun Mayor Jiang Qiaying, and Li Shutian, general director of the provincial firefighting brigade.

Dehui city's Party chief Zhang Dexiang, mayor Liu Changchun, and police chief Wang Hua'an were dismissed from their posts.

Dereliction of duty was also reported in the Babao Coal Mine blasts, according to the investigation report.

Due to insufficient fire-preventing measures, self-ignition of coal led to gas blasts in the mine, the report said, referring to the direct cause of the blasts.

After the initial blasts and 36 fatalities on March 29, the company violated a production ban by sending workers into the pit again, where a gas blast on April 1 killed 17 people and injured 8, according to the investigation report.

Meanwhile, poor management at the mine and lax supervision from the Baishan municipal government and related authorities are also to blame for the accident, the report said.

Sixteen people, including Zhao Xianwen, board chairman and general manager of Tonghua Mining Company, which owns the mine, as well as his deputies, have been prosecuted.

Baishan Mayor Peng Yonglin and his deputy were also given disciplinary sanctions along with Jilin's deputy governor Gu Chunli and former top work safety official Jin Hua.

Yuan Yuqing, board chairman of Jilin Provincial Coal Industry Group, the parent company of Tonghua Mining Company, was sacked while the general manager of the group Jia Liming was demoted.

The State Council has ordered the governments of all levels in Jilin and related authorities as well as enterprises to draw lessons from the accidents and carry out thorough safety checks so as to ensure work safety.

Sunday 7 July 2013

## **NZ: Pike families vow to chase compensation**

*Extract from [stuff.co.nz](http://stuff.co.nz)*

The \$110,000 compensation payouts to Pike River victims pale in comparison to those made after a deadly mine explosion in the US just seven months before the West Coast mining disaster.

On Friday, at Greymouth District Court, Judge Jane Farish ordered that Pike River Coal Ltd pay \$3.41 million in reparation to the families of the 29 miners and contractors who died in the November 2010 mining disaster, and the two men who survived it. That equalled \$110,000 each.

She also fined the company, which went into receivership shortly after the disaster, \$760,000.

But those sums are dwarfed by the US\$46.5m compensation that owners of the Upper Big Branch mine, in Raleigh County, West Virginia, paid after the April 2010 explosion which also claimed the lives of 29 men.

That sum was part of a US\$209.3m package that mine owners agreed to pay to end a criminal investigation and civil proceedings. Mine manager Gary May was also jailed for 21 months after pleading guilty to conspiracy to

impede America's Mine Safety and Health Administration's enforcement efforts at the mine.

Pike River Coal's chief executive at the time of the West Coast disaster, Peter Whittall, will next year stand trial accused of 12 health and safety failings.

Like Pike River, the Upper Big Branch mine was blighted with health and safety failings and poor ventilation; the latter which contributed to the subsequent deadly methane explosions.

Spokesman for the Pike River Families group Bernie Monk applauded the tough stance American authorities had taken, saying he would back any moves for greater punishments for those responsible for workplace deaths in New Zealand.

"New Zealand has to understand that the day is going to come when this is going to happen," he told the Sunday Star-Times.

"This [Pike River] wasn't an accident . . . people have to stand up and be accountable.

"[But] no money would even compensate [for our losses]. If you probably went back to the Americans, they would probably say, 'OK, it is a big amount of money, but no money ever compensates missing your loved one.' "

Despite the \$3.41m reparation orders placed on Pike River Coal, uncertainty surrounds just how much will be paid out.

The company's receivers, PricewaterhouseCoopers, have revealed that the company has only \$500,000 in available funds and \$156,000 in leftover insurance money.

Since Judge Farish's ruling, calls have been made for Pike River Coal's major shareholder, New Zealand Oil and Gas, to front with the required compensation.

After the explosion, the company provided \$25m to keep Pike River afloat in the week after the tragedy, paying for the company to go into receivership, putting insurance proceeds to the contractors of Pike River to partially compensate

for money owed to them and making a contribution to the victims' family trust.

Yesterday, NZOG chief executive Andrew Knight told the Star-Times it was unlikely the company would provide further money. "We quite clearly don't have a legal responsibility," he said. "We quite clearly were not in control. And there is evidence to that effect. I have my own shareholders to manage. And my shareholders are saying, 'Well you've already spent \$25m - you need to learn where to stop.' "

Monk said he was disappointed with NZOG's stance.

"It [compensation] would only be an insignificant scratch on their butt to what tax write-offs they are getting from Pike River."

Meanwhile, Monk confirmed that family members of the Pike River 29 were now determined to seek further compensation from the Government, saying they would seek redress similar to the families of those who died or were badly injured in the Cave Creek disaster. Fourteen people died and four suffered serious injuries after a poorly constructed Department of Conservation viewing platform in the Paparoa National Park collapsed on April 28, 1995. The Government later paid out \$2.6m in compensation to the families.

When asked if the Pike River Families would follow suit, Monk replied: "Most certainly. [It's] very likely now. From the findings of what went down in the last two days [with the court case], it has left the door open for us to go down that avenue."

Monday 8 July 2013

## **Tanzania: 5 killed, 1 injured in mine accident**

*Extract from IPPMedia, Tanzania*

Five people have been confirmed dead and one severely injured in an accident at a tanzanite mine on Saturday night at Mererani in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region.



Police in Manyara have confirmed the accident, saying the incident occurred after the quarry collapsed while small scale miners were busy working underground.

Manyara Regional Police Commander, Akilimali Mpwapwa said the accident occurred around midnight when small scale miners were still working underground at the mine. The quarry involved in the accident is under Fanoni Mining Ltd, a property of Onesmo Mbise.

RPC Mpwapwa named the deceased as Jackson Kavishe, Noelkilwa Kitui, Emmanuel John, Godlove Zablon and Emmanuel Joshua; while Sifael Simba survived the accident with serious injuries and was admitted at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) in Moshi Municipality.

Bodies of the deceased were preserved at Mount Meru Regional Hospital in Arusha city.

The lure of striking riches has drawn thousands of small scale miners to Mererani which resembles a gold-rush town with bars and hardware stores.

Tanzanite is believed to be limited to the East Africa's Rift Valley region. The pits where the accident happened are located in the heart of Maasai land, a short distance from Mount Kilimanjaro.

The gemstone was discovered by Maasai tribesmen in 1967.

Meanwhile, in April this year at least 14 people were killed in an accident at a quarry located at Moshono area in Arusha where people were illegally digging for rocks and sand to be used as building materials.

Reports say works at the quarry was banned in 2006 when seven people died in a similar accident.

The then acting Arusha Regional Police Commander (RPC), Hemed Kilonge said more than 14 people and two lorries were covered by mud and stones as quarrying activities progressed.

"The escarpment collapsed and covered people and vehicle," said the RPC.

The murrum was mined to be used in roads construction and for building purposes. Following the accident, the government closed the murrum mine site at Moshono on the outskirts of Arusha City temporarily.

Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda said the mine site would be temporarily closed to allow the government to ensure safety at the area and would resume its activities later so as to keep providing employments.

## **USA: Peabody's Wildcat Hills mine remains idled after last week's fatality**

*Extract from [www.platts.com](http://www.platts.com)*

Peabody Energy's Wildcat Hills underground steam coal mine in southern Illinois remained idle Monday in the aftermath of a mine fatality last week.

The US Mine Safety and Health Administration has not lifted a closure order against the mine because an investigation continues into the July 2 accident that killed 35-year-old Nathan Clarida of Galatia, Illinois, said Amy Louviere, spokeswoman for the federal agency.

According to MSHA, Clarida was killed when he was struck by a ram car being trammed through a ventilation curtain. Clarida was the 10th coal miner to die in the US in 2013.

Late last week, St. Louis-based Peabody submitted an accident prevention plan for Wildcat Hills to MSHA for review. Typically, MSHA does not erase closure orders until such plans have been evaluated and approved.

It was unclear Monday when Wildcat Hills will be allowed to resume production. Peabody officials could not be reached for comment.

Wildcat Hills, operated by Peabody Midwest Mining, a Peabody affiliate, is a moderate coal producer in Illinois' high-sulphur coalfield. The mine produced 1.45 million st of coal in 2012,

MSHA figures show, and turned out 389,318 st in the first quarter this year. The mine has about 200 employees.

Thursday 11 July 2013

## **USA: Evarts man injured in mining accident**

*Extract from harlandaily.com, USA*

A mining accident at the Lone Mountain Processing's Darby Fork mine in Holmes Mill resulted in Billy Moore, 30 of Evarts, being flown to the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington.

"At approximately 6:30 a.m. Wednesday morning my son, Billy, was involved in a mining accident at Lone Mountain Processing in Holmes Mill," said Harlan County Magistrate Bill Moore. "He had just started his shift, where he works as a shuttle car driver, and he was on his second load of coal when a piece of metal about a 1/2 inch to 3/4 of an inch long flew off the miner and hit him in the eye. It cut his eyeball half in two and they are going to have to remove his left eye."

Moore said the mine requested that his son be flown out via Medi-Vac Air Ambulance to Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport, Tenn. However, he said due to weather conditions the helicopter had to reroute to Lexington.

"Billy is listed as stable at this time," said Moore. "He'll have to have surgery to have his eye removed. The doctor who will perform that surgery will consult with Billy and his family on Thursday."

Moore said he appreciates all the people's "prayers and concerns" for his son.

"We ask that everyone continue to keep Billy in their prayers, along with his wife and their two children," said Moore. "This is a major shock to my son having to lose one of his eyes."

Attempts to contact Lone Mountain Processing for a statement were unsuccessful.

Friday 12 July 2013

## **Coal mine found concealing blast death toll**

*Extract from English.news.cn*

BEIJING, -- A coal mine company was found to have concealed the death toll in a fatal gas explosion in northeast China's Jilin Province in March, according to an investigation report released Thursday by the State Council.

The explosion occurred around 10 a.m. on March 29 at Tonghua Mining Group's Babao Coal Mine Company in Baishan City. Jilin Province Coal Industry Group Co.,Ltd. is the parent company.

The coal mine company only reported 28 deaths and 13 injuries to avoid investigation while the real death toll amounted to 36, including one injured worker who died after medical treatment failed on March 31, said the report.

According to the report, the State Administration of Work Safety ordered the provincial government to verify casualty number on April 5 after receiving tip-off saying the company concealed the death toll.

On April 6, the provincial government confirmed that 36 people had died in the explosion and the company concealed deaths of seven victims, said the report.

Further investigation showed that Babao Coal Mine also concealed deaths of six workers in five accidents in 2012, the report said.

It said three gas explosions, which did not cause casualties, occurred in the mine in 2013 prior to the fatal accident in March and were not reported.

Another gas explosion happened in the same mine on April 1 when the company sent workers down the shaft to work, disregarding a government ban on operation. A total of 17 people died and eight were injured in the accident.

Sunday 14 July 2013

## Ukraine coal mine explosion leaves 1 dead, 3 injured

*Extract from [www.panarmenian.net](http://www.panarmenian.net)*

**PanARMENIAN.Net** - One miner died and three others were injured in a sudden blast of gas and coal at a **coalmine** in the Donetsk Region in east Ukraine, the Ukrainian Emergencies Ministry's press office reported on Sunday, July 14, according to RIA Novosti.

The blast occurred at the Shcheglovskaya-Glubokaya mine in the town of Makeyevka early on Sunday, trapping three miners underground. A total of 130 miners managed to leave the accident-hit area on their own. One of them was hospitalized with the signs of methane gas poisoning.

The three trapped miners were later found by the rescuers.

"One miner died and his body was lifted to the surface while two miners were taken in grave condition to the Donetsk burn center," the press office said.

Work at the mine has been suspended. The cause of the explosion is being investigated.

Mining accidents are frequent in Ukraine. In 2007, a methane explosion at the Zasyadko mine in Donetsk killed 101 workers, the worst mine tragedy in Ukraine's history.

Tuesday 16 July 2013

## NZ miner pleads guilty on injured coal miner

*Extract from [stuff.co.nz](http://stuff.co.nz)*

State-owned coal miner Solid Energy confessed it neglected to keep one its miners safe after he was crushed by tonnes of coal in July last year.

The internationally experienced Spring Creek miner was hit by a one metre wedge of coal, which fell out of a development face in the

underground West Coast coalmine near Runanga.

At the time of the accident, a miner colleague said a team of four men had just completed supporting the tunnel roof with steel bolts and were putting away bolting gear.

It was thought the coal miner had spinal injuries after the rockfall.

The English miner in his 50s had shifted to work at the now abandoned mine. He was at Christchurch Hospital for six weeks with numbness and constricted movement in his left arm, his colleague said.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment resolved to prosecute Solid Energy under the Health and Safety in Employment Act for neglecting to put in all mechanisms needed to keep the miner from harm, [stuff.co.nz](http://stuff.co.nz) reported.

According to a Solid Energy spokesman yesterday, the company pled guilty last month through the Greymouth District Court registrar, indicating neither side had appeared nor has a summary of facts been publicly read.

One charge alone could mean a maximum penalty of \$250,000 a ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union's West Coast area organiser Garth Elliott wants the court to enforce a considerable repatriation order due to the financial burden of the accident on the miner.

"His family has been through quite a hardship. He was partially paralysed. I think at the end of the day, the company knows there were shortcomings (at the mine)," he said.

The injured miner could not return to work after the accident because of the serious injuries, depriving him and his family of an income.

The ministry's high hazards unit handed a prohibition notice on the mine's development areas, which shut the mine for two days.



The company announced just two months later it had to suspend the mine due to financial trouble, resulting in 230 redundancies.

Wednesday 17 July 2013

## **Bulgarian Authorities to Inspect Oranovo Mining Concession after Tragic Incident**

*Extract from novinite.com*

The families of the two miners, who died in the July 16 Oranovo coal mine collapse in southwestern Bulgaria, will receive one-time financial aid amounting to BGN 325, while the Social Protection Fund will cover the funeral expenses, according to Hasan Ademov, Minister of Labor and Social Policy.

Ademov told the Focus news agency that the measures were to be approved during Wednesday's sitting of the government.

Ademov also claimed that it was too early to comment on demands for changes to working environment regulations aimed at guaranteeing fast response of rescue teams in such accidents.

He said that the main problem which was being discussed was whether rescuers were to be appointed at each mine, or headquartered in a number of locations from where they would respond to signals, adding that the decisions would be taken after the investigation was wrapped up and an analysis containing concrete proposals was in place.

The July 16 rockfall in the Oranovo coal mine left two miners dead. Rescue teams continue the search for their two colleagues that remain trapped underneath 50 meters of land mass.

The rockfall was the fourth tragic incident at the mine for the past eight years.

In an interview for the Bulgarian National Television, Dragomir Stoynev, Minister of Economy and Energy, said that the authorities would investigate the Oranovo accident and hold

people liable for it only after the miners were taken out.

He informed that he had ordered an inspection of the concession agreement for the exploitation of the mine on suspicion of irregularities.

Stoynev suggested that the results of the inspection were to be published by the end of the week.

He said that it was necessary to examine all mining concessions in the country, adding that the working conditions in the sector required special attentions.

## **This week in mining accident history**

**21 July 1895**

**McEvoy Mine**

**Eldorado, Victoria, Aus**

**Underground gold mine**

**Inrush of water and sand**

**6 killed**

### **ELDORADO, July 21. 1895**

The most disastrous mining accident ever known in the Ovens district took place early this morning in the McEvoy claim, when six miners were suddenly buried by a fall of earth. Mr. John Kneebone, one of the entombed, has been known for the last 35 years as an expert miner, and was a shareholder in the original Kneebone claim. All the men, with the exception of Crane, were married with families. Some others had a very narrow escape, but a young man named J. Ferguson pluckily rushed in at great risk and gave warning. Every effort is being made to reach the men, but the hope of finding them alive is very faint. There are no fresh developments with respect to the accident in the McEvoy mine. It is impossible to say definitely when the bodies will be recovered, as great difficulties have to be faced. Some of the relatives of the entombed miners are anxiously awaiting the coming inquiry as to the cause of the disaster. Practical sympathy has been

shown by the company to the bereaved, and an appeal will be made for help, which doubtless will be heartily responded to. Of the six buried miners Dawkins was the only one who was a member of the miners' union, which he joined only three weeks ago. Crane, another of the lost, was a member of the Oddfellows' society.

## **Terrible Mining Disaster**

*Portland Guardian 24 July 1895*

Wangaratta - A terrible disaster occurred at the McEvoy mine, Eldorado, yesterday morning. It is supposed that the men in one of the drives struck the old McEvoy works, causing a rush of slush. Thirty men were below, and all escaped but six, who are supposed to be smothered in one of the drives. A relief party has been at work putting in a crosscut of 70 feet, but it is thought the bodies will not be got out for several days. There is no hope of rescuing them alive, as the drive is filled with slush. The noise of the rush was heard at the top of the mine. It is supposed that a fall of earth in the face prevented the six from getting out. The entombed miners are:- John Crane, a single young man, who came from Newport; John Kneebone, married and elderly, having relatives in Collingwood; Jas. Bourke, a young married man, from the Ballarat district; James Armstrong, an elderly married man, from the Ballarat district; Chas. Dawkins, an elderly married man, from Young, New South Wales; Jas. Thomson, a young married man, a native of the district.

Mining started at the McEvoy Mine in the Eldorado Goldfield of northern Victoria in about 1859 and ceased work in 1901. The estimated total production of gold was 630kg.

Wednesday 24 July 2013

## **S. Africa: Trapped miners found dead**

*Extract from MoneyWeb, South Africa*

### **All other workers were safely evacuated.**

The bodies of two mineworkers trapped underground after a rockfall at Anglo American Platinum (Amplats) Bathopele Mine in Rustenburg were found on Tuesday, Amcu said.

"They were found around 3.50pm," said Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) shaft leader George Tyobeka.

He said the two workers were drilling on Saturday when the accident happened.

Amplats said the two workers killed were Mashabela Phuku, 31, and Tsembele Joseph Mashele, 45.

"Mr Phuku was a team leader and Mr Mashele a rock drill operator. Both the deceased had been working at Bathopele mine for 7 and 5 years respectively," said spokeswoman Thabisile Phumo.

"Anglo American Platinum is saddened by the loss of life of our two employees and extends heartfelt condolences to their families, friends and colleagues."

She said all the other workers were safely evacuated and only the two employees were unaccounted for after the accident on Saturday.

"Mine rescue services and emergency workers were immediately dispatched and worked around the clock to locate the missing employees," Phumo said.

## **10 killed in Shaanxi mine fire**

*Extract from Xinhua*

Ten miners have been confirmed dead after they were trapped underground following a fire that broke out yesterday in a sulfur mine in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, rescuers said today.

As of 7:20am today, seven bodies of the trapped miners have been lifted from the pit while three others in the pit have also been confirmed dead, according to rescuers.

Zhong Hongliang, a rescuer monitoring harmful gas at the head of the pit, said mist containing carbon monoxide keeps rising from the pit, which can lead to coma.

Thirty rescuers have made continuous efforts to rescue the trapped miners and they found that the concentration of the carbon monoxide in the pit has stood at about 1,000 parts per million (ppm) which can be fatal, according to Dang Li, leader of the rescue team.

A total of 27 miners were trapped in the pit when the mine, located in Chengcheng County, caught fire around 1pm yesterday.

Seventeen of the miners have been rescued as of yesterday afternoon. Nine injured miners are being treated at a local hospital and their condition is stable. Eight others appeared unscathed, said hospital sources.

Initial investigation showed that the accident was caused by a fire broke out at a cable when miners doing some repair works in the pit.

Saturday 27 July 2013

## **USA: Lowest mine fatality rate in 2012**

*Extract from trib.com, Wyoming, USA*

The National Mining Association has hailed the U.S. mining industry for reaching another milestone in safety performance. As confirmed by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, America's mines last year recorded the lowest rate of fatalities and lost time accidents in the history of U.S. mining.

In 2011, NMA released its CORESafety framework, a safety management system that combines practices and procedures that have proven effective in other industries here and around the world.

CORESafety was developed by NMA and overseen by a CEO-level task force. The initiative is designed to complement safety efforts already in place, with an emphasis on accident prevention.

## **Tas: Rescuers use hands to free man buried in trench**

*Extract from ABC Northern Tasmania*

A man who was trapped in a trench in northern Tasmania is being treated for minor chest injuries and mild hypothermia.

The geologist was doing a survey in the White Hills area when a four-metre deep trench he was in collapsed on him.

It took emergency workers more than four hours to dig the man out by hand to free the man to avoid another collapse.

The man remained conscious through out the ordeal and was taken to hospital in an ambulance.

The Fire Service's Steven Richardson says it took a huge effort from rescue crews.

"It was a slow painstaking process ordeal to using small hand and small troubles to dig the dirt our around him, and then it was bucketed out by a human chain, they'd fill the buckets, and then pass them up to the top of the trench," he said.

The man is in hospital in a stable condition. Workplace Standards attended the incident.

Tuesday 30 July 2013

## **Gas Leak Kills Three Miners in Colombia**

*Extract from Bernama, Malaysia*

BOGOTA, (BERNAMA-NNN-XINHUA) -- Three miners were killed and nine others injured after toxic gas leaked in a gold mine in northwestern Colombia, local authorities said.

"An apparent cause may be the failure in the decompression chamber system. The mine was

closed for five days, thus resulted in an accumulation of toxic gas, but the decompression system didn't work," said Cesar Hernandez, director of the Disaster Prevention Department of Antioquia state.

Hernandez said that the gold mine is located in the rural area of "El Bagre", where most of the victims lived.

The injured were taken to nearby medical centers for treatment.

The official also said the mine was legal, and the mining firm is one of the most responsible in terms of safety of mine workers.

Investigators have started to find out the cause of the accident.

## NZ: Solid Energy fined over accident

*Extract from NZCity, New Zealand*

Solid Energy has been fined more than \$70,000 and ordered to pay \$46,000 in reparations over an accident that left a West Coast miner with serious injuries.

Miner Paul Burton was injured when a slab of coal fell on him at the Spring Creek mine in July last year.

His right side was paralysed and he had to undergo major surgery to repair spinal cord damage. He still suffers some paralysis and is unlikely to work as a miner again.

Solid Energy was fined in Greymouth District Court on Tuesday.

Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union (EPMU) organiser Garth Elliot says it's appropriate the mining company has been fined for its serious safety failings.

"The injuries Paul has suffered as a result of Solid Energy's failures have impacted his earnings for the rest of his working life. These reparations are welcome but they can never compensate Paul for what he has lost," he said.

"We hope Solid Energy has learned from its failings and puts processes in place to make sure it doesn't happen again."

## Mining dictionary

### A guide to coal mining terminology

#### C

**Car-dump** The mechanism for unloading a loaded car.