

Friday 17 October 2008

USA: Mine death in White County, Ill.

Extract from The Carmi Times, Ill, USA

A mining accident killed a Kentucky coal miner at the Pattiki Mine southeast of Carmi around 2:30 Thursday afternoon.

White County Coroner Carl McVey identified the decedent as Tim Adamson, 45, of Morganfield, Ky. He is survived by his wife, and funeral arrangements are pending. He had worked for Pattiki for eight years.



The White County Ambulance Service and LifeFlight Helicopter from Evansville, Ind., responded to the Pattiki coal mine southeast of Carmi early Thursday afternoon after an accident was reported inside the mine. The accident proved to be fatal to a Morganfield, Ky., man. A number of miners were observed milling about and looking dejected after the LifeFlight crew shut down the helicopter's engines, perhaps viewing it as an ominous sign of the news to come.

McVey said preliminary indications are that Adamson was pinned against the mine wall by a piece of equipment. The coroner returned to the scene Friday morning with federal mine safety officials to continue the investigation. An autopsy was scheduled for Friday afternoon.

A statement from White County Coal said the accident occurred at approximately 2 p.m. when an employee was fatally injured while working as a continuous miner operator at the Pattiki underground mine.

The company also said the Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals and U.S. Mine Safety

and Health Administration are conducting an investigation to determine the cause of the accident.

This is the second miner death at the Pattiki site, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Regulations Administration.

Mark E. Wargel, 38, Equality, died in January 2000 at the mine when a roof collapsed on him, according to Carmi Times archives. Wargel's job was to install steel rods in the mine roof to keep it from collapsing. He had worked at the mine for 2 1/2 years.

Except for 1998 and 1981, at least one Illinois miner died each year since the state began keeping records in 1882.

USA: Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration launches training program

Extract from The Salt Lake Tribune, USA

To help individual miners avoid mistakes that could kill them, the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration has launched a training program targeting the kind of accidents responsible for most fatalities.

For coal miners, the worst danger involves being hit by slabs of rock falling from the roof or walls of an underground tunnel. In metal and nonmetal mines, falling a sizable distance is the greatest risk.

"We found that if we focused on an area where accidents are occurring and create a lot of awareness about that hazard, we can have a real positive impact," said Mark Skiles, MSHA's director of technical support.

Any focus on safety is always good, said Mike Dalpiaz, Utah's highest ranking official in the United Mine Workers of America union. But he doubts this initiative will do much to really improve mine safety, seeing it more as a Bush administration effort to make it look like it is doing something.

"What they're doing is putting a shield over all of their screw-ups.....trying to sugarcoat

everything," he said. "They [MSHA] have bigger and better things they should be doing - inspecting mines, finding the real causes of accidents, making sure they don't happen again."

Unveiled earlier this week, the program will develop training materials addressing safety points pertinent to the 10 most frequent causes of death, between 2000 and 2008, in coal and metal/nonmetal mines. Those 20 mishaps are responsible for 92 percent of mining deaths - often one or two at a time.

"While they do not get the attention that some larger mine accidents have received, they are just as tragic and they are preventable," said MSHA director Richard Stickler.

Skiles acknowledged a point made by Dalpiaz that most mines already have safety programs addressing points highlighted by the initiative. Still, he added, MSHA has found it gets results when additional attention is focused on specific topics.

"It's like, if you're driving down the highway and see a bad accident, you'll drive safer for the next while," he said. "When you're in the mine day in and day out, it's easy to get complacent. This training creates awareness and puts it out in the forefront."

Between 1984 and 2004, Skiles noted, 29 people were killed in accidents involving continuous mining machines. Consequently, MSHA focused on curbing safety problems identified in those accidents. Since then, no fatalities have occurred with those machines.

MSHA will give mine operators "a packet of material probably an inch thick," Skiles said, including videos and flyers. "It gives the operator something to jack up his effort in that area for a month."

Dalpiaz said mine safety will be advanced more if voters replace Bush with an administration less inclined to pander to industry. "I call MSHA managers the 'cops of the coal industry.' They're no different than the regulators of the

financial industry who were asleep at the wheel."

Push for miners to stress safety

The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has launched a safety initiative to reduce the main types of fatal accidents in mines:

Coal mines

1. Falling rock from roof, walls
2. Operating equipment on surface
3. Hit by equipment underground

Metal/nonmetal mines

1. Fall from high elevations
2. Operating equipment on surface
3. Accident doing maintenance work

Source: www.msha.gov

USA: North Georgia limestone mine collapses killing worker

Extract from *Associated Press, USA*

ELLIJAY, GILMER COUNTY, Ga. — A mine worker died Friday in a collapse about two miles deep in a limestone mine in north Georgia, authorities said.

Emergency crews were still trying to reach Tony Allen Cruse, 45, about six hours after the 10 a.m. accident at the Ellijay Mine of Carmeuse Lime and Stone, said Lt. Frank Copeland of the Gilmer County Sheriff's Department.

It was not immediately known what caused the collapse, Copeland said.

It was being investigated by the company and the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

"We at Carmeuse Lime and Stone are saddened by the death and express our heartfelt prayers and thoughts to the family and loved ones of the deceased," the company said in a press release.

Copeland said the mine, known locally as the Talona Mine, produces crushed stone and is about two miles south of Ellijay.

Kevin J. Whyte, Carmeuse vice president and general counsel, said Cruse had been with the company for eight years. Whyte said he was a scaler operator, working a piece of heavy machinery that scales rock back from the walls of the mine. He did not know if other workers were nearby at the time of the collapse.

Gilmer County is a mountainous area of north Georgia. The county seat is about 60 miles north of Atlanta.

Saturday 18 October 2008

Six killed in Ukraine mine blast

Extract from Kyiv Post, Kyiv, Ukraine

A methane explosion at a coal mine in eastern Ukraine on Saturday killed six people, the country's Emergencies Ministry said.

The blast ripped through the Duvanna mine in the city of Sukhodolsk in the Luhansk region of Ukraine.

"119 miners were underground of whom six were killed. The remaining 113 have been brought to surface," the ministry said in a statement.

Some of Ukraine's mining pits date from the 19th century and have been plagued by a series of accidents in the past.

Man Dies after Falling Down Nevada Mine Shaft

Reported by KTVN - Reno, NV, USA

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office confirmed Saturday a man died of his injuries after falling down a mine shaft in Lyon County.

Deputies say Terry Berardy of Calaveras County, California was exploring mine shafts with family and friends, around the Ludwig Mine just west of Yerington. Just after 10:00 am, Berardy fell down a mine shaft roughly 100 feet deep.

Investigators determined Berardy was dead before rescuers arrived on-scene.

No one else was hurt in this accident.

The Washoe County Hasty Team, Lyon County Search and Rescue, and the Mason Valley Fire Department worked together in this incident.

An investigation is ongoing.

Sunday 19 October 2008

Search ends for NW China mine explosives accident that killed 16

Extract from www.chinaview.cn

SHIZUIZHAN, Ningxia, - Rescuers called off the search and rescue work for possible missing people following Tuesday's mine blast accident in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, local government official said.

After four searches within a 1 km radius from the accident site, rescuers confirmed there were no more casualties on Sunday afternoon, Wei Liyang, Ningxia Work Safety Administration director, said.

The accident happened early on Thursday evening at the Yangchi mining section of the Dafeng mine in Shizuishan City, leaving 16 dead and 48 injured, including 12 in serious condition.

The injured are in hospital for treatment.

Workers were using more than two tons of dynamite to blast away rock in the mine when the accident occurred.

The dead included six people working with the dynamite, five people passing the site in a vehicle and mine workers living in nearby sheds, according to Shenhua Ningxia Coal Mining Group Corp.

Police held two people from Guangdong Hongda Blasting Co., Ltd., who were in charge of the blasting operation, for questioning and investigation.

The cause of the accident was being investigated. Compensation for the victims' families has begun.

USA: Man Killed in W.Va. Mine Accident

Extract from State Journal, Charleston, WV, USA

Moundsville, W.Va - A man was killed during a mine accident in Marshall County on Sunday.

According to P.R. Director Joe Cerenzia of Consol Energy, Victor Goudy of Sistersville died around noon inside the McElroy Mine.

Goudy who was 58 and a veteran of the mine, was killed when he was caught between 2 railcars that were being coupled.

According to Chief Deputy Kevin Cecil, a group of men were working together in the mine, when the operators of a tow engine went into reverse without seeing Goudy.

Goudy was hired by Consol back in 1975. The mine was closed for most of the day for an investigation.

The mine has reopened, after being shut down while federal and state agencies investigated. Cerenzia said the investigation is complete, but the final report from those agencies won't be available for at least 30 days. He would not say who or what may have caused the fatal accident.

Coal mine accident kills three, injures more in China's Shanxi

Extract from Xinhua, China

TAIYUAN, - Five miners were killed and 37 others injured in an accident at a coal mine in north China's Shanxi Province on Sunday morning, said a provincial work safety official.

The accident happened at about 6:51 a.m. at Shenzhou Mining Co., Ltd. in Luliang City when the rope of a cable car, carrying miners who were returning to the ground, suddenly broke, said one of the injured workers.

There were 42 workers on the cable car at the time of the accident.

Three miners died on the spot, while two died at the Luliang People's Hospital.

The injured miners were sent to the Luliang People's Hospital, where an unnamed doctor said more than 20 miners have been hospitalized since 8 a.m. Sunday.

The injured suffered mostly from fractures, the doctor said

The Shenzhou mine produces 840,000 tonnes of coal annually. Authorities have ordered to halt production after the accident. Official investigation is underway.

Monday 20 October 2008

USA: Two Mining Accidents Reported in WV

Extract from WSAZ.com, USA

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Two miners were hurt on Monday in two separate mining accidents in West Virginia. Both accidents happened before noon on Monday.

The first accident happened at Speed Mining near the Kanawha-Raleigh County line.

According to Jama Jarrett with the Office of Miners' Health Safety and Training, the miner was pulling a cable from a shaft when he suffered flash burns.

The miner was burned on his face and arms, but he's expected to be okay.

The second mining accident happened at Atlantic Leaseco near Summersville in Nicholas County.

The miner was working in the surface mine when a rock hit him in the kidney area, Jarrett said. The rock was about the size of a baseball.

Both miners suffered serious injuries, but they are not life threatening.

Investigators are on the scene of both accidents trying to figure out what happened.

Wednesday 22 October 2008

MSHA fines Preston mine \$736,000 for 'flagrant' violations

Extract from Charleston Gazette, WV, USA

Federal regulators have fined a Preston County coal mine \$736,000 for "flagrant" violations of rules meant to prevent underground explosions and fires, officials said Wednesday.

The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration assessed the penalties against Kingwood Mining Co.'s Whitetail Kittanning Mine near Fellowsville, according to an MSHA news release.

MSHA chief Richard Stickler said the operation was cited for repeated violations over the course of a year. The violations included five citations related to accumulations of combustible materials that were assessed under the new flagrant violation provisions of MSHA's civil penalties program.

"The result of coal dust accumulating underground could have been a catastrophic fire or explosion," Stickler said. "It is especially troublesome that the mine operator failed to take any corrective action, despite its own records and prior notice from MSHA that clearly indicated the need for corrective actions to protect the safety of miners."

Thursday 23 October 2008

WA: Worker injured in Collie coal mine explosion

Extract from ABC Online, Australia

An explosion at a coal mine near Collie has left one man with severe burns.

The explosion occurred just before 4.00pm at Griffin Coal's Ewington coal mine, east of Collie.

A spokesman for St John Ambulance says the man suffered extensive burns to his upper body but his injuries are not life threatening.

The man was being treated in Collie Regional Hospital, but was expected to be flown to Perth for treatment.

Ky. investigating bulldozer fatality at mine site

Extract from Kentucky.com, Lexington, KY, USA

State authorities are investigating a fatality at a mining site in eastern Kentucky after a bulldozer went over an embankment while grading a road.

Office of Mine Safety and Licensing spokesman Jim Carroll said Thursday morning they are gathering information regarding the death. The Mine Safety and Health Administration said the death happened at a surface mine in Perry County run by AM & E Coal Incorporated.

WYMT-TV reported that Perry County coroner Jimmy Maggard was called to the site in Leatherwood around 2 p.m. Wednesday.

MSHA said a bulldozer operator was cutting and grading a new road when he lost control and went over an embankment. The D8 Caterpillar bulldozer flipped over and fell about 45 feet down an embankment, MSHA said.

The victim's name has not been released pending notification of kin.

Another bulldozer operator was killed in September in a similar accident.

Harold Lee Graham, 55, of Campton, died Sept. 19, when a bulldozer he was operating fell over a wall at a mine in Ary while he worked for International Coal Group.

Mining dictionary

A guide to common mining terminology

M

mortar box An oblong cast-iron box in which the stampers of a battery work. Commonly a feed slot is located on one side of the box and an opening with a metal screen on the other to regulate the size of the crushed slimes leaving the box.

- Ed.