

FATAL ACCIDENTS

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: Walter L. Depto
Address: R.D. 1, Box 212, Hastings, PA 16646
Name of Mine: No. 1 - Indiana County
Name of Company: Greenwich Collieries
Date of Accident: February 16, 1984

Joseph A. Ardini, Mine Inspector 18th Bituminous District

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On February 16, 1984, at approximately 4:30 a.m., Walter L. Depto, age 47, Pumper, with three year and one month experience at this occupation, fourteen years of service at this mine, received severe injuries, which resulted in his death.

Investigation is continuing, therefore, description, cause and means of preventing a similar accident not available to-date.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim:	Gary L. Miller
Address:	Box 367, 111 W. High Street, Ebensburg, PA 15931
Name of Mine:	No. 1 - Indiana County
Name of Company:	Greenwich Collieries
Date of Accident:	February 16, 1984
Joseph A. Ardini, Mine Inspector	18th Bituminous District

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On February 16, 1984, at approximately 4:30 a.m., Gary L. Miller, age 34, Pipeman, with five years and nine months experience at this occupation, twelve years of service at this mine, received severe injuries, which resulted in his death.

Investigation is continuing, therefore, description, cause and means of preventing a similar accident not available to-date.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim:	Stephen M. Parzatka
Address:	Box 66, Hastings, PA 16646
Name of Mine:	No. 1 - Indiana County
Name of Company:	Greenwich Collieries
Date of Accident:	February 16, 1984

Joseph A. Ardini, Mine Inspector 18th Bituminous District

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On February 16, 1984, at approximately 4:30 a.m., Stephen M. Parzatka, age 31, Pipeman, with two and half years experience at this occupation, eleven and half years of service at this mine, received severe injuries, which resulted in his death.

Investigation is continuing, therefore, description, cause and means of preventing a similar accident not available to-date.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim:	Timothy L. Murphy
Address:	R.D. 3, Berlin, PA 15530
Name of Mine:	Barbara No. 1
Name of Company:	Hawkview Mining Corp.
Date of Accident:	March 12, 1984 - Roxbury, PA - Somerset Co.
Andrew P. Kentula, Mine Inspector	21st Bituminous District

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On March 12, 1984, at approximately 11 a.m., Timothy L. Murphy, age 27, Continuous Mine Helper, with seven years experience, received severe injuries, which later resulted in his death on March 13, 1984 of massive head injuries. The accident occurred at the north west sub-mains, number two entry, intersection with one right butt. The bottom was water covered at the area of the tail and bumper of the miner. The bottom was broken up and a hole was rooted out of the bottom about six to eight inches deep. This was the area that the shuttle car would stick.

The victim's head was pinched against the roof, thirty-four inches from the end of the miner tail, in a five inch space and the cribb block referred to in the testimony for pushing out the stuck shuttle car was in this area inside the tail of the miner.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

Equipment related - head was caught between tail of mining machine and roof. It's speculated that he was trying to retrieve a cribb block out of the miner tail, when the operator raised the tail.

Although the condition of the broken mine bottom that caused the shuttle car to get stuck and the erratic hydraulic system of the continuous miner contributed directly to the accident, the lack of communication between the continuous miner operator and the victim on the intent of the victim action was the main cause of this accident.

Management must also share in the responsibility of this accident in that it did not provide adequate task training to the victim in the proper conduct exercised while working around mining equipment.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

Recommend regular review of all task training programs to all employees and their strict compliance.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name:of Victim: Joseph J. Letecki
Address: 318 Beallsville Rd., Bentleyville, PA 15314
Name of Mine: Bethlehem No. 51 (Ellsworth) - Washington Co.
Name of Company: Bethlehem Mines Corporation
Date of Accident: April 19, 1984

Jesse L. Bolen, Mine Inspector 5th Bituminous District

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On April 19, 1984, at approximately 11:15 a.m., Joseph J. Letecki, age 54, Laborer, received severe injuries, which resulted in his death. Nature of injury was chest, back and angulation of lower extremities.

Victim was pouring concrete for a switch when a locomotive ran over him. No. 1 Jeffrey - 44 ton locomotive ran into cement cars at No. 6 switch on main haulage. Accident occurred near bottom of No. 51 mine near rotary dump toward old end of the mine. Victim was crushed between a cement car and the rib.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

Poor communications between all persons involved.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

The dispatcher shall have complete knowledge of the location of all trips and equipment moving about the mine.

Orders issued by the dispatcher in the movement of trips and vehicles shall be reiterated, word for word, before the trips or vehicles commence movement.

Warning devices shall be placed no less than 200 feet in each direction outby wherever work is being performed on the haulage; and, shall be so located that such warning devices shall be clearly seen by approaching trips or vehicles.

Section 270 (e) shall be strictly complied with.

No haulage equipment or trips shall be permitted to move on the same track that the mantrips travel during scheduled mantrip time.

All personnel shall be thoroughly trained for the job which they are required to perform. The dispatcher shall be thoroughly familiar with all the physical characteristics of the entire inside of the mine's haulage system and shall be periodically up-dated.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: Howard K. Wilhelm, Jr.
Address: Box 61, R.D. 1, Cheswick, PA 15024
Name of Mine: Russellton - Allegheny County
Name of Company: B.C.N.R. Mining Corporation
Date of Accident: June 8, 1984 - Injured -- Died June 9, 1984

Domineck F. Sabatini, Mine Inspector 1st Bituminous District

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On June 8, 1984, at approximately 9:15 p.m., Howard K. Wilhelm, Jr., age 53, First Class Repairman, with five months experience at this occupation, fourteen years of service at this mine, received severe injuries, which later resulted in his death on June 9, 1984. Nature of injury was multiple blunt force trauma of the trunk, head and limbs.

Victim's co-worker, eyewitness to accident: They were hoisting a 20 foot ladder which became wedged in the 4th level floor structure. Victim placed himself between guard railing to free bottom portion of ladder. After several attempts to free the ladder, the ladder became dislodged and the victim lost his balance and fell through guard railing 48 feet 10 inches to the bottom level and sustained fatal injuries.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

Victim lost his balance while dislodging 20 foot ladder that was wedged between 4th floor structure, and fell 48 feet 10 inches to bottom floor.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

1. Provide ladders of 20' lengths where needed to eliminate hoisting ladders.
2. Install more railings to cut down on span between railings.
3. Move sand silt pipe to original location.
4. Post signs to eliminate hoisting material of long lengths to 4th and 5th levels.
5. Contact each employee on use of hoist and working around guard railings.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim:	Daniel Albert Davidson
Address:	R.D. #1, West Sunbury, PA 16061
Name of Mine:	Eldorado Mine Drainage Permit No. 3074SM30 - Butler County
Name of Company:	Big B Mining Co., Inc.
Date of Accident:	October 5, 1984

Ralph E. Parks
Surface Mine Conservation Inspector Knox District Office

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On October 5, 1984, at approximately 2:00 p.m., Daniel Albert Davidson, age 33, Maintenance, with approximately fifteen years of service, was fatally injured. Nature of injury was upper body and shoulder area crushed.

The victim employed by Big B Mining Co., Inc. of R. D. 1, West Sunbury, PA was killed in an incident involving loading of a 35 ton Wabco end dump onto a low boy trailer owned by John D. Clark, Inc. of 318 Grant Avenue Ext., Butler, PA for transport to Big B shop at West Sunbury for repairs.

The vehicle because of over width had been run up onto railroad ties laid parallel on either side of low boy. Once in position the frame of the vehicle is lowered to trailer floor by releasing air from large shock type suspension cylinders.

According to witnesses Douglas Clark and David Hartle (employees of J. D. Clark, Inc.) the victim had prior to the incident released the air valve on the left front wheel and had made the remark that it (the vehicle) wasn't coming down very fast, to which they said that it was not. Victim then climbed up onto steering arm on left side of vehicle with his upper body atop tire with head and shoulders extended well past the fender/walkway and reportedly turned the valve two more turns. The body of the vehicle came down suddenly to the floor of the trailer pinning the victim in between the tire and fender of the vehicle on the upper shoulder area.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

Accident caused in greater part by victim taking unnecessary chance on loading and stabilizing vehicle.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

Safer work habits and more strenuous safety training.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACCIDENT

Responsibility of accident due to victim taking an unnecessary chance.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: James Russell Steiner
Address: Box 83, Darragh, PA 15625
Name of Mine: Pitt Gas - Greene County
Name of Company: Cannon Coal Company
Date of Accident: October 9, 1984

Raoul A. Vicinelly and
Robert E. Fulton, Mine Inspector 4th Bituminous District

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On October 9, 1984, at approximately 2:10 p.m., James Russell Steiner, age 38, General Inside Laborer, with four years experience at this occupation, four years service at this mine and eleven years mining experience, received severe injuries, which resulted in his death. Nature of injury was multiple injuries - upper part of body.

A DOSCO Road Header continuous miner was being brought into the mine for the purpose of mining through a rock fault. In the process of bringing the miner underground, there were areas of the roof that had to be brushed down to provide clearance for the miner. Three areas of the roof were brushed down at 20 foot intervals and were bolted. The fourth area of the roof was brushed for a distance of five feet and the machine was trammed inby. While in the process of traming the machine, the victim and other employees were watching the cable to see that adequate slack was provided. The victim observed the cable being caught on a piece of slate and signaled the continuous miner operator to stop. He went into a area that was not adequately supported to free the cable when an employee yelled that the roof was working and to get out of the area. The victim ran out and was under supported roof when the area collapsed catching the victim. The approximate area of the fall was 12 feet wide, 20 feet long, and 45 inches thick.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

Upon investigation, it was observed several slips were hidden in the roof. It was also noticed that the fall occurred above the 4 foot and 6 foot roof bolts that had been installed. The roof conditions were not evaluated properly by management and the employees.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

During the examination of the roof, it was found "drummy" and "loose". The area was not adequately supported. Employees shall be trained on proper evaluation of roof conditions.