

FATAL ACCIDENTS

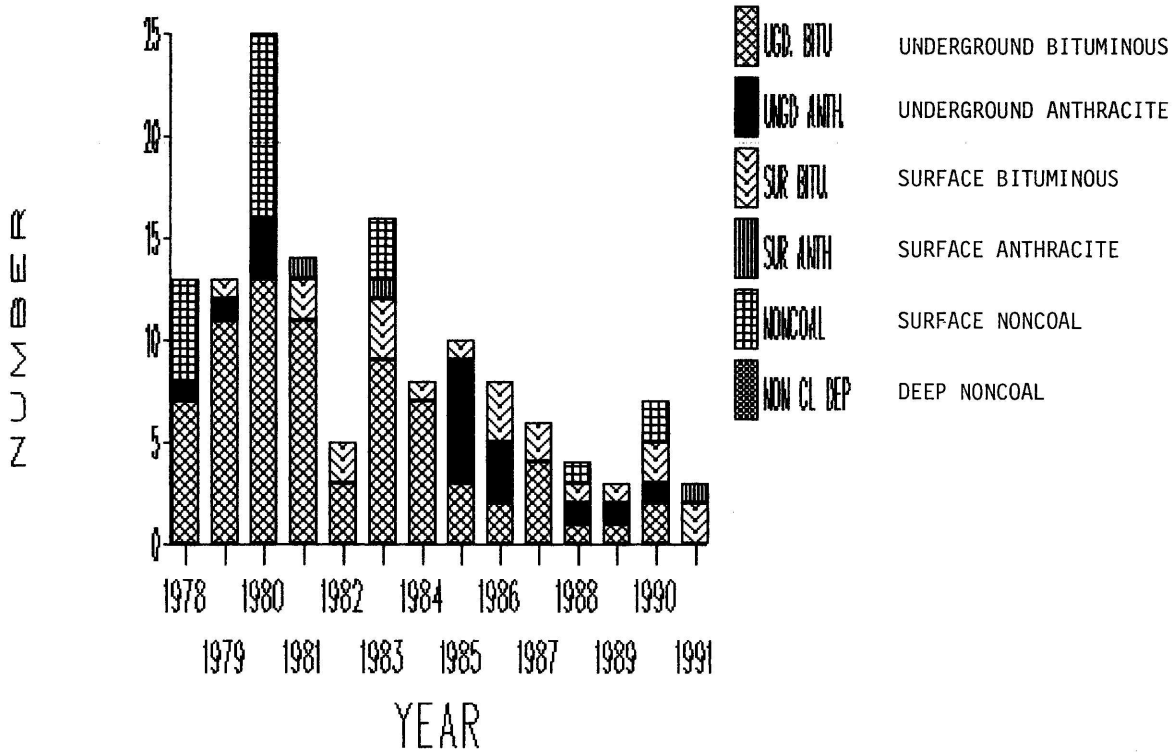
MINING FATALITIES

1978 - 1991

CALENDAR YEAR	DEEP BITUM	DEEP ANIH	DEEP TOTAL	SURF BITU	SURF ANIH	SURFACE TOTAL	D & S TOTAL	NONCOAL SURFACE	NONCOAL DEEP	TOTAL FATALS
1978	7	1	8	0	0	0	8	5		13
1979	11	1	12	1	0	1	13	0		13
1980	13	3	16	0	0	0	16	9		25
1981	11	0	11	2	1	3	14	0		14
1982	3	0	3	2	0	2	5	0		5
1983	9	0	9	3	1	4	13	3		16
1984	7	0	7	1	0	1	8	0		8
1985	3	6	9	1	0	1	10	0		10
1986	2	3	5	3	0	3	8	0		8
1987	4	0	4	2	0	2	6	0		6
1988	1	1	2	1	0	1	3	1		4
1989	1	1	2	1	0	1	3	0		3
1990	2	1	3	2	0	2	5	2		7
1991	0	0	0	2	1	3	3	0	0	3
TOTALS	74	17	91	21	3	24	115	20	0	135

MINING FATALITIES

1978 - 1991



REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: Donald E. Lawton
Address: Shelocta, PA
Name of Mine: Surface Garmantown Mine
Name of Company: L & J Energy Co., Inc.
Date of Accident: 2/5/91 Garmantown, Cambria Co.

John DeHaas
Conservation Mine Inspector
Bituminous Region - Surface
Ebensburg District Office

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On February 5, 1991 at approximately 4:50 p.m., a fatal fall of highwall accident occurred at the L & J Energy Co., Inc., located near Barnesboro, Pennsylvania. An independent contractor, C. B. Holms, Inc., was employed to auger coal from the Middle Kittanning coal seam in the 003 Pit at this operation. Five of the contractor's employees were working on and around the auger machine when rock and other material, loosened by freezing and thawing, fell from the highwall striking two of the miners. One miner was fatally injured and one received serious injuries. The victim Donald E. Lawson, age 59, employed as a auger crew member with 16 years experience at this occupation was fatally injured. Nature of injury was head and chest.

A rock fell from the highwall crushing the victim. The rock was approximately 30 feet above the pit floor. Wet weather conditions appear to have caused movement in this highwall.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

Weather conditions. Light rain had occurred during this shift of work.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

No work should be performed under a highwall during wet weather conditions.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACCIDENT

Inadequate daily examination of highwall by company foreman.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: Eric Picard
Address: R. D. 2, Box 184, Clearfield, PA
Name of Mine: Surface Mine Emigh #1-SMP1713055
Name of Company: Thompson Bros. Coal Co., Inc.
Date of Accident: 3/20/91-Troy-Clearfield County

Donald C. Hebel
Conservation Mine
Inspector Bituminous Region - Surface
Hawk Run District Office

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On March 20, 1991 at approximately 3:22 p.m., Eric Picard, age 37, with 6 1/2 years experience as a blaster and 15 years mining experience was fatally injured at the surface mine Emigh No. 1 in Troy Township, Clearfield County.

Cause of death: Cardiac Arrhythmia, Ventricular Fibrillation and Electrocution.

The victim was part of a blasting crew employed by Al Hamilton Contracting. The decedent was setting off a charge when a wire from the charge was thrown into contact with high voltage electric lines. Electric charge from the lines returned to blaster through lead line and blasting machine, causing the death.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

Blasting lines leading from the shot hole series back to the board were not tied down.

Absence of horizontal pressure relief due to effect delay sequence in combination with wind direction and highwall height.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

Operator was required to submit a plan proviso stating that non-electric blast initiation system must be used when blasting within 300 feet (horizontal measure) of a power line.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACCIDENT

The Blaster-in-Charge, since it is primarily his responsibility to ensure safe procedure before detonating a shot.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: Steven Burdess
Address: 106 S. 2nd. St., St. Clair, PA
Name of Mine: St. Clair Pit
Name of Company: Reading Anthracite Company
Date of Accident: 5/4/91 - Schuylkill County

M.J. Menghini, Inspector Supervisor/ Pottsville Office
Charles Abramitis, Conservation Mine Surface-Anthracite Region
Inspector St. Clair Boro - Schuylkill Co.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

The victim Steven Burdess, age 20 was reported missing on May 7, 1991, by his brother who last saw him on May 4th at a party at the North end of town.

The fatality apparently occurred when the Police Department was called to a fireworks complaint in an area adjacent to the St. Clair Pit Area on the night of May 4, 1991. The investigation revealed that a drinking party was going on, and when the police announced their presence a number of people fled the area in various directions. The victim was one of the individuals who fled, and that is when he accidentally fell off the highwall area.

The victim apparently fell off the top of a highwall into a water-filled depression and drowned in the area known as the St. Clair Pit. It should be noted that the individual was familiar with the area and must have become disoriented.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

The victim failed to identify where he was walking or running and apparently walked or ran over the edge of the highwall area at the southwest corner of the area known as the St. Clair Pit.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

Individuals Should:

1. Remain a safe distance from the edge of a highwall.
2. Stay behind any safety fences or berms constructed along a highwall area.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACCIDENT

Ultimately, the victim was responsible for his own death; as he was familiar with the accident area and did not take any precautions to avoid falling off the highwall area, and he also went beyond the highwall safety berms.