

FATAL ACCIDENTS

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: William E. Brillingham
Address: 128 Guilford St., Lebanon, PA
Name of Mine: Annville Quarry
Name of Company: Wimpey Minerals U.S.A., Inc.
Date of Accident: 2/6/96 - Lebanon County

Thomas Roof
Conservation Mine Inspector

Surface Mining
Industrial Minerals - Pottsville

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

At approximately 2:06 a.m. on February 6, 1996, William E. Brillingham, 55 years of age, was fatally injured due to a massive heart attack. The victim was employed by the Wimpey Minerals USA, Inc., in Lebanon County. Mr. Brillingham had a total of 10 years employment as a crusher operator.

Victim was helping the millrights oil a crusher, and had just walked down and back up a set of stairs (59 steps) from the ground to the crusher. Victim then told the millrights that he was going to the crusher control booth to get warm. The millrights found him a short while later, collapsed at the bottom of the stairs to the control booth.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

An autopsy indicated that the victim's death was due to a massive heart attack and Arterial Schloradic Cardio Vascular Disease.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

N/A: Fatality not related to an accident.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACCIDENT

N/A: Fatality not related to an accident.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: Jamie H. Boyer
Address: Pottsville, PA
Name of Mine: Devault Quarry - MDP #15830602
Name of Company: Devault Crushed Stone Company
Date of Accident: 2/6/96 - Chester County

Jonas Carpenter
Conservation Mine
Inspector

Anthracite Region - Surface
Pottsville District Office

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On February 6, 1996 at approximately 12:15 p.m., Jamie H. Boyer, 20 years of age, was fatally injured when he was crushed between the lift arm and the roll-over protective structure (ROPS) of a small utility loader. He had approximately 9 months total mining experience, all at this mine, and had operated the loader for about 6 months.

The Devault Quarry, a crushed limestone operation owned and operated by Devault Crushed Stone Company, was located near Devault, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

The main cause of the accident was the victim's failure to maintain control of the loader while it was running. The victim had apparently gotten out of the seat while the loader was running and accidentally bumped the handle on the control level that raises the bucket lift arms.

A contributing factor to the accident was the fact that the loader was an older model that was not equipped with an automatic safety device to prevent movement of the bucket and lift arm when the operator gets out of the seat.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

Only utilize equipment with the latest safety devices to prevent movement of lift arms and buckets when the operator is not seated.

Provide training to operators of older non-safety device equipped vehicles that dictates the equipment be turned off at all times when the operator is not seated.

CONCLUSION

The primary cause of the accident was the failure to maintain control of the loader while it was running.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: James B. D'Angelo
Address: 10 Kemp Dr., McDonald, PA
Name of Mine: Cumberland Mine
Name of Company: Cyprus Cumberland Resources Corp.
Date of Accident: 4/10/96 - Greene County

Marvin W. Gardner
Underground Mine Inspector Bituminous Region- District 1

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On Wednesday, April 10, 1996, at 7:00 a.m. James B. D'Angelo, age 41, was fatally injured at the Cumberland Mine, Cyprus Cumberland Resources Corporation, in Greene County. The victim had a total of 20 years mining experience. The victim had internal hemorrhage due to extensive laceration of the liver with lacerations extending into the hepatica vein and interior vena cava. The victim died following surgery at 5:50 p.m. from the injuries received in the accident of the chest and upper abdomen.

The victim and three co-workers were moving the stageloader assembly outby in the belt entry. They were pushing the stageloader and crusher by using two shields. The crusher was sliding into the rib and prevented easy movement. They used a duke jack between the rib and the stageloader to push it away from the rib. They did this three times. After the third push, the victim climbed over the stageloader to re-position the jack. The jack, which was still under pressure, dislodged striking victim in the chest area.

FACTORS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACCIDENT

1. Victim exposed himself in a confined space while attempting to relieve the pressure from a pressurized duke jack.
2. Salzgitter high pressure setting gun was secured in an open position in order to pressurize the salzgitter hydraulic prop (duke jack) remotely.
3. Inability to release pressure from the duke jack remotely from an isolated area.
4. Limited working space.
5. Inability to stabilize the flexpan.
6. Attempting to move entire stageloader without unit tear down.
7. Failure of rib to adequately support the base of the duke jack.

CONCLUSION

Operator failed to establish and enforce safe job procedures for longwall equipment moves.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Disconnect headgate drive, headgate motor and gear box, transition pan, flexpans, crusher, electrical boxes, and tailpiece and move independently.

Do not use duke jack or any other equipment for anything but its intended purpose.

Develop A J S.A. for longwall moves and implement at the mine level.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim:	Burton J. Fry
Address:	Clearfield, PA
Name of Mine:	Dutch Hollow Operation Surface Permit No. 17910114
Name of Company:	River Hill Coal Co., Inc.
Date of Accident:	5/5/96 - Clearfield County
Conservation Mine Inspector Kent Shoemaker	Hawk Run Office Surface-Bituminous Region

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On Sunday, May 5, 1996, at approximately 12:10 a.m., Burton J. Fry, rock truck driver, was fatally injured while operating the Caterpillar 7858B rock truck, at the Dutch Hollow Mine, River Hill Coal Co., Inc., Clearfield County. The victim was taken to Philipsburg Hospital from which he was transported by the medical helicopter to Conemaugh Hospital, Johnstown, Pa. The victim died there of injuries at 1:54 p.m., May 5, 1996. The cause of death was multiple skull fractures and blunt force trauma.

The victim was loading overburden which had been previously drilled and blasted on the job site. While backing toward the edge of the middle dump, the truck, loaded with 156 tones of rock, overtraveled the edge of dump. The truck flipped over onto its bed, slid approximately 125 feet and flipped back onto the tires, coming to rest on the haul road below.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

The accident occurred because overburden was being dumped at the edge of the middle dump where an adequate berm was not in place. The lack of a berm allowed the truck to either overtravel the edge of the dump, or get close enough to the edge that the edge gave way under the rear tires. The not wearing of the seat belt contributed to the severity of the injuries to the victim.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

Rock truck operators should not dump close to or over the edge of the dump site and an adequate berm should be maintained to prevent overtravel.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACCIDENT

The Department of Environmental Protection does not have specific regulations regarding the acts or conditions which possibly caused this accident. No enforcement action was taken.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: Gerald T. Little
Address: 4558 Loring St., Philadelphia, PA
Name of Mine: Miller Quarries, MDP#7973SM3
Name of Company: Miller & Son Paving Inc.
Date of Accident: 5/8/96 - Bucks County

Michael J. Menghini
Conservation Mine Inspector Pottsville Surface Mining Office

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On May 8, 1996, at approximately 9:20 a.m., Gerald T. Little, age 31 was fatally injured. The fatality was related to the loading of a blast at the Miller Quarry, Miller & Son Paving Inc., located in Wrightstown Township, Bucks County. The victim occupation when injured was truck driver/laborer, with 20 months of mining experience and 17 months blasting assistant. The victim was employed by Explo-Tech Inc., the contract blaster at Miller Quarry.

On the day of the accident, the victim, report to work at approximately 6:30 a.m., his normal starting time. The victim unloaded explosives from the explosives truck until two of his co-workers and supervisor arrived.

After unloading the truck, the victim assisted the blaster-in-charge, and another blaster, in loading holes with primers and ANFO at the west end of the No. 5 production bench. The victim then assisted the truck driver, in repositioning the dewatering truck on the bench, after which the victim proceeded toward the rear of the explosives truck.

At approximately 9:20 a.m., the blaster-in-charge, blaster and the truck driver reported they heard an explosion. The blaster-in-charge looked up, saw a flash by the explosives truck, and realized that a premature detonation had occurred. He ran around the driver's side of the truck and found the victim lying on the ground about 10 feet from the rear of the truck. The victim had sustained massive injuries and was killed instantly.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

The detonation was apparently triggered by the primer assembly being subjected to impact.

Co-workers stated, during interviews, that on two prior occasions, they had seen the victim tapping on a detonator with a knife to seat it in a booster.

MEANS OF PREVENTING A SIMILAR ACCIDENT

Train all employees on the need to protect explosives from impact before they are allowed to handle any type of explosive.

Conduct periodic refresher training on the safe handling of explosives and the need to protect explosives from any impact.

Instruct all employees that any unsafe explosive handling incident(s) they observe are to be reported immediately to their supervisor, who in turn is to report it to management personnel. The employee or employees involved in the incident(s) are then to be removed from any explosive handling duties and retrained on the safe handling and use of explosives prior to being reassigned to his regular duties.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: Robert L. Thomas
Address: Finleyville, PA
Name of Mine: Maple Creek Mine
Name of Company: Maple Creek Mining, Inc.
Date of Accident: 10/26/96 - Washington County

Dennis Walker
Paul F. Eckenrode
Underground Inspector

Bituminous - District 6
Bureau of Deep Mine Safety

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On October 26, 1996, at approximately 05:20 p.m., Robert L. Thomas, age 42 was fatally injured while operating a mine locomotive, at Maple Creek mine, Maple Creek Mining, Inc. in Washington County. The powered haulage accident occurred at the bottom of the Hazel Kirk track slope of Maple Creek mine.

The victim and a co-worker were in the process of transporting a longwall equipment sled along the Hazel Kirk track haulage to the 2 East longwall set-up area. The corners of the sled were secured to two supply cars. During transport, the longwall equipment sled shifted on the supply cars and the inby left corner contacted a concrete block rib retaining wall. The longwall equipment sled was then forced off the supply cars and over top of the trail locomotive. The victim, who was operating the 20 ton trail locomotive, struck the sled as the locomotive passed underneath. As the victim passed under the skid plate, he sustained fatal injuries.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

The skid plate was not properly secured to the flat car.
Safe work procedures were not being followed.

REPORT OF FATAL ACCIDENT

Name of Victim: Ronald A. Kimmel, Jr.
Address: -
Name of Mine: Permit No. 4973SM6 -Consolidated
Quarry Operation
Name of Company: Global Stone, Pen Roc Inc.
Date of Accident: 12/17/96 - York County

Mark Mathews Industrial Minerals
Conservation Mine Inspector Pottsville Surface Office

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On December 17, 1996, Ronald A. Kimmel, Jr., age 36 was fatally injured after a blasting event, at Consolidated Quarry, permit number 4973SM6, Global Stone, Pen Roc Inc., in York County.

The victim was an employee of Hall Explosives, Hershey, the contract blasting company utilized on site. The victim was the licensed blaster in charge. Immediately after a blasting event, the victim proceeded to conduct an after-blast survey of the shot area. While in the process of collecting the used lead line along the face and access road, a portion of this area collapsed beneath the victim. The victim was buried under approximately 12 feet of mud and stone.

The victim is survived by a wife and two small children.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT

Under investigation - no detailed report available at this time.

ANTHRACITE AND BITUMINOUS FATAL ACCIDENT VICTIMS
AND QUARRY OPERATIONS

1996

Deep District No. or Surface County Code No.	Name of Victim	Victims Address	Company	County	Date of Accident	Cause of Accident
(Industrial 38C Minerals) (Surface)	William E. Brillingham	128 Guilford St. Lebanon, Pa	Wimpey Minerals USA, Inc. Millard Quarry MDP#38870301	Lebanon	2/6/96	Heart Attack Fatality not related to an accident
(Industrial Minerals) 15C (Surface)	Jamie H. Boyer	507 Lincoln Avenue Pottstown, PA	Devault Quarry MDP#15830602 Devault Crushed Stone Company	Chester	2/6/96	Equipment Powered Haulage Small Utility Loader
Bituminous 1 (Deep)	James B. D'Angelo	10 Kemp Drive McDonald, PA	Cyprus Cumberland Resources Cumberland Mine	Greene	4/10/96	Machinery Stageloader and Crusher
Bituminous 17C (Surface)	Burton J. Fry	332 Daisy St. Clearfield, PA	River Hill Coal Co., Inc. Dutch Hollow Mine MDP#17910114	Clearfield	5/5/96	Rock Truck Haulage
(Industrial Minerals) 09C (Surface)	Gerald T. Little	4558 Loring St. Philadelphia, PA	Miller & Son Paving Inc. Miller Quarries MDP#7973SM3	Bucks	5/8/96	Loading of blast
Bituminous 6 (Deep)	Robert L. Thomas	58 Gamble Street Finleyville, PA	Maple Creek Mining Inc. Maple Creek Mine	Washington	10/26/96	Transportation Locomotive attached to trip of mine supply cars.
(Industrial Minerals) 67C (Surface)	Ronald A. Kimmel, Jr.	Unknown	Pen Roc Inc. Global Stone Consolidated Quarry MDP#4973SM6	York	12/17/96	Explosives After-Blast Survey Portion of area collapsed beneath the victim