



Coal Mining Disasters

Coal mining, especially underground mining, is considered to be one of the most dangerous jobs in the world. Throughout the centuries, there have been many accidents, including cave-ins, explosions, roof collapses, floods, fires, suffocations, and more.

Since coal mining has always been important in Pennsylvania, the rate of coal mine disasters has always been high. Anthracite mining is more common in the eastern part of the state. From 1870 to 2000, over 31,000 miners died in accidents in the anthracite mines.

Bituminous mining is more prevalent in the western part of Pennsylvania. From 1877 to 2000, over 20,000 miners have died in bituminous mine accidents.

Choose from one of the following accidents or events. Or you may research an accident or event that you would prefer. Find out what led to the difficulty and how, when, and where it happened. Explain what led to the problem and the actions that were taken in order to try to solve the problem. Discuss the actions that could have prevented the accident, and the changes in the coal mining industry that resulted because of the event or accident.

January 2, 2006	Sago Mine Disaster (West Virginia)
July 24, 2002	Queecreek Mine Accident
July 15, 1997	Sarah Mine Disaster
1961 through present	Centralia, Pennsylvania
January 22, 1959	Knox Mine Disaster
June 5, 1919	Baltimore Tunnel Explosion
September 27, 1915	Foster Tunnel Mine Accident
April 7, 1911	Lackawanna Anthracite Mine Disaster
December 19, 1907	Darr Mine Disaster
July 10, 1902	Rolling Mill Mine Disaster
May 1902	Anthracite Coal Strike
June 10, 1901	Port Royal Mine Disaster
September 10, 1897	Lattimer Mine Massacre
July-November 1892	Homestead Strike
April 1891	Morewood Massacre
January 27, 1891	Mammoth Disaster
September 6, 1869	Avondale Mine Disaster