AML FATALITIES AND “NEAR MISSES” & VANDALISM AT AML SITES (2000-2009)

California AML Forum
February 17, 2010

California Department of Conservation
Office of Mine Reclamation,
Abandoned Mine Lands Unit (AMLU)

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Every year, people die or are injured in abandoned mine accidents.

Man Who Fell Down Shaft Dies (Desert Dispatch)
Searchers Find Body in Abandoned Mine (Fresno Bee)
Boy Survives 200 Foot Fall Into Mine (High Desert News)
Motorcycle Rider Escapes Serious Injury After Tumble Down Mine Shaft (The Daily Independent)
Bike Rider, 11, Survives 40-foot Plunge into Unfenced Mine Shaft (Los Angeles Daily News)
4 Youths Killed in Old Eastbay Mine (Oakland Tribune)
Another Man Falls Down Abandoned Mine Shaft (Victorville Daily Press)
9-Year-Old Boy Who Fell Down Abandoned Mine Shaft Rescued (The Bakersfield Californian)
Fix Unmarked Mine Shafts Before Someone Else Dies (Del Norte Triplicate)
Death Spurs Mines Alert (Riverside Press Enterprise)
Brothers Die While Diving in Old Mine (Los Angeles Times)
2 Killed By Fumes in Abandoned El Dorado Mine (CBS 13 News)
45 Reported Accidents in California in 2000-09 (14 Fatalities)

Man Rescued After 2 Nights in Mine Shaft (August 17, 2008)

3 Men Died ... in Gold Mine (May 20, 2008)
### WHERE

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Total: 45
California Statistics (2000-09)

45 Reported Incidents (47 People, 14 Animals)
California Statistics (2000-09)

45 Reported Incidents (47 People, 14 Animals)

- Fatalities: 33 (54%)
- "Near Misses"*: 14 (23%)
- Animals: 14 (23%)

* Accidents that could have resulted in a fatality, but did not.
California Statistics (2000-09)

45 Reported Incidents (47 People)

Vehicle: * 25 (53%)

Falls (non-vehicle): 13 (28%)

Drowning/Bad Air: 9 (19%)

* SUV, quad, motorcycle, bicycle....
California Statistics (2000-09)

45 Reported Incidents (47 People)

Gender of Accident Victims
- Male: 40 (85%)
- Female: 5 (11%)
- Unknown: 2 (4%)

Ages of Accident Victims
- ≤ 15: 7
- 16-25: 12
- 26-35: 10
- 36-45: 3
- > 46: 7
- Unknown: 8
A Ridgecrest woman is dead after falling 100 feet into a mine shaft that she was exploring in the Tungsten Peak Mine south of Bradys and northwest of Inyokern west of Highway 14 just south of the 395 junction.

The Indian Wells Mine Rescue Team was dispatched to the scene and worked with Kern County Fire crews to reach Linda Marie Rose, 30, of Ridgecrest, who was found dead from the fall by rescuers.

Rose fell about 100 feet down a vertical mine shaft around 2 p.m. Sunday, according to officials.

Rose's body was secured and removed using a technical rope recovering system.
Californian Mine, San Bernardino Co.

BLM Lake Havasu Field Office
• Along the busy “Parker Strip”; nearly fatal accident inside abandoned mine results in lawsuit, large settlement
• AMLU, BLM install gate in 2003
• Gate vandalized in 2007 (by battery powered grinder with cut off wheel?)—repaired within weeks with remediation $
American Girl Mine, Imperial Co.

BLM El Centro Field Office
- Gates installed by mining company in 1990s
- Area used by desert tourists, undocumented immigrants
- Broken welds allow access to underground hazards
- Repairs planned for early 2010
Little Black Top Mine, Riverside Co.

State Parks, Salton Sea State Recreation Area parcel
- Shaft at end of dirt road over blind crest
- Steel plate welded into place over vertical shaft
- Plate found removed two years later (sold for scrap?)
- PUF plug installed 12/08, dirt cover to disguise
State Parks, Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area
• Horizontal openings into unstable coal stopes
• Area closed to public but trespass, vandalism continuous
• Burnt timbers trigger emergency bat gate/support in 2008
• More gates, culverts installed in 2009-2010
National Park Service, historic mine features

- Various historic mines show similar spray-painted markings
- NPS rangers catch prospectors digging trenches
- Chinese mining company had plans to increase prospecting efforts
Los Padres Mine, San Bernardino Co.

State Lands Commission lands (subject of next presentation)