

**California Abandoned Mine Lands: Reported Incident Log 2000-09**

(includes only incidents that have come to the AMLU's attention)

Date	County	Type*	Incident Summary	Source/Media Coverage
2009.12.19	Nevada	F	Local firefighters rescued a 137-pound dog from an abandoned mine shaft along an Irrigation District ditch near the dog owner's property.	Grass Valley Union, 12/22/09
2009.11.07	Kern	V	A male (unk age) was riding along with his father and two other riders when he found himself 12 feet down in a mineshaft along with his bike. His head was pinned under his front wheel/in between his skid plate. He was rescued complaining of back/neck/shoulder/ankle pain, but no broken bones.	DezertRangers.com, 11/13/09 post.
2009.07.19	Inyo	F	A man (22) died after falling off a highwall of a glory hole at the Tungsten Blue Mine. His brother (17) witnessed the accident. The man and his brother were reportedly climbing in the glory hole checking out open adits.	Inyo Register, 7/23/09 (obituary); SierraWave.net, 7/21/09; BLM, pers. comm.
2009.03.xx	Kern	F	A man (20) fell into an unmarked abandoned mine shaft but got out of the shaft himself. He reported that he was "okay."	BLM Newsbytes Extra, # 376; BLM emails, 3/09 (no media; incident reported to BLM staff who investigated).
2009.01.21	Tuolumne	F	Rescuers helped a dog out a 40-foot-deep abandoned mine shaft.	The Union Democrat, 1/22/2009
2009.01.17	San Bernardino	V	A boy (15) out with a group rode his Honda CRF230 bike into an unmarked 18 to 20 foot deep mine shaft. He (and his bike) just missed landing on timbers strewn about the shaft bottom. He suffered a puncture wound to his left upper arm.	Email to BLM (1/22/09)
2008.12.22	Calaveras	F	Rescuers pulled a sheep from an abandoned gold mine pit plugged with debris, dirt, and vegetation. According to the Fire Chief, a fence around the mine opening had been removed before the incident. Rescuers were concerned that the floor of the pit was a false bottom and that the actual mine is 1,700 to 3,000 feet below the pit floor.	Calaveras Fire Dept. Incident Report
2008.11.22	Placer	F	State Parks staff notified AMLU of an incident where a deer fell into a vertical mineshaft at Mammoth Bar, was injured, and had to be dispatched by a ranger.	State Parks email, 11/22/08
2008.08.16	Tuolumne	F	A man (34) spent 42 hours trapped in an abandoned mine. He walked 20 feet into an adit, alone and at night, and fell about 100 feet down a series of vertical and diagonal winzes into a 5-foot deep pool of water. After a friend called for help the next day, County Search & Rescue were unable to extract the man. At 2:15 AM the following morning, Los Angeles Sheriff's Mine Rescue team arrived on scene, and at 5:50 am they extracted him with a Stokes rescue basket. He suffered back and leg injuries, but apparently no broken bones.	AP, 8/17/08; KCRA 3/NBC Sacramento, 8/18/08; MSHA Stay Out Stay Alive; Modesto Bee, 8/17(2) & 8/21/08; MSNBC, 8/17/08; MyMotherLode.com, 8/16&17&19/08; Sacramento Bee, 8/18/08; SF Chronicle, 8/17/08; SJ Mercury News, 8/18/08; ThePineTree.net, 8/17/08; Union Democrat, 8/16&19/08; MSNBC, 8/17/08
2008.05.17	Madera	A	Three men (23, 25, & 26), two of them brothers, died from carbon monoxide poisoning after running a gasoline-powered pump to drain water from an abandoned mine. The very steep mine was about 8 feet in diameter and 20 feet deep. The men were found dead at 11 pm after they failed to attend a family gathering and a friend and two others went to look for them. The men had started using the pump a day earlier (at least), in an attempt to reopen the mine to explore for gold.	Fresno Bee, 5/18 & 5/20/08; KCRA3/NBC Sacramento, 5/18/08; KFSN30/ABC, 5/18/08(2); KGPE47/CBS Fresno, 5/19/08; KMPH26/Fox Fresno, 5/18/08(2); KSEE24/NBC Fresno, 5/18 & 5/20; Madera Tribune, 5/19/08; MSHA; Stockton Record, 5/28/08; Boston Herald/Washington Post, 5/19.
2008.01.21	Placer	F	A golden retriever chasing thrown rocks fell into a 3½-foot-wide, 40 feet deep mine shaft. The shaft was downslope from a popular trail and was hidden by undergrowth. The dog was rescued by firefighters from Auburn FD, and was uninjured.	Auburn Journal, 1/21 & 1/22/08.
2007.12.31	Kern	F	A boy (11) taking pictures of an abandoned mine fell 30-50 feet down a winze in an adit on New Year's Eve. About 20 rescuers responded. He was taken to an area hospital and treated for a broken hip or rib (unclear from reports).	KERO 23/ABC Bakersfield, 1/2/08; KGET 17/NBC Bakersfield, 12/31/07; MSHA.
2007.10.xx	Kern	V	An abandoned SUV lodged in the collar of a 20 to 30 foot deep shaft was discovered by BLM staff. No injuries were reported, and the driver was later cited for travelling off-road in an area designated for travel on existing roads only.	BLM emails, 10/07 (no media; incident reported to BLM staff who investigated).
2007.06.16	Plumas	V	A man (41) riding on a rocky trail at an abandoned quarry at about 2:15 am was fatally injured when he was thrown off his motorcycle.	Chico Enterprise-Record, 6/18/07; MSHA
2007.01.xx	Kern	V	A woman nearly drove her quad into a 500 foot deep shaft. She drove up the large dump of the Smith Mine shaft, and when she reached the top her 2 front wheels fell into the shaft. She got off the quad safely and her husband pulled it back from the edge. The shaft is reached via a nondesignated, unauthorized, but well-worn, trail.	BLM emails, 1/07 (no media; family wrote BLM on 1/23/07 to inform them about the site)
2006.12.24	Kern	V	A boy (9) out with family and friends rode his motorcycle into and fell 40 feet down a shaft. Kern Fire Station 75 crew in Randsburg and Sheriff's Dept. rescued the boy, who was hospitalized, complaining of pain to his stomach and legs. The rider was off-route in an area designated for travel on existing roads only.	Bakersfield Californian, 12/24/06; OneBakersfield.com, 12/26/08; Kern County Fire Incident # 06-36-900.

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2006.07.25	El Dorado	A	Two workers (man, 49, & woman, 32) entered an abandoned mine to pump water to a water tanker for a construction project. Fumes from the generator caused the man to pass out just before 8 pm, and the woman went to the property owner's home to request help via 911. When the woman returned to the shaft, she also fell victim to the fumes. Both individuals died, and their two dogs were also killed. The shaft was described as 150 feet deep on a 30 degree incline.	CBS 13 Sacramento, 07/25/06(2); Mountain Democrat, 7/27/06; MSHA; Sacramento Bee, 7/26 & 7/27/06
2006.07.23	Calaveras	F	Foothill Fire Protection District volunteers went down a 65-foot mine shaft to rescue a week-and-a-half-old calf. Six volunteers responded to the scene and they improvised by using some equipment generally reserved for moving humans in a vehicle accident to harness the calf and pull it to safety.	Valley Springs News, 7/26/06
2006.04.30	Riverside	V	A man (27) riding a quad drove into a mine shaft and fell about 40 feet. A second man riding a motorcycle witnessed the accident and called local emergency services. It took nearly 7 hours for the 18 fire and medical personnel to extract the man, who was airlifted to a regional medical center and treated for a broken right arm, leg injury, cuts and bruises, and possible internal injuries.	MSHA, 4/29/06; Riverside Press Enterprise, 4/30/06; San Diego Union-Tribune, 4/30/06
2006.04.14	San Bernardino	F	One week after the 4/7 fatality, a man (34) and his daughter (14) were exploring on OHVs. The man entered the same adit as the previous week's victim and fell 40-50 feet down the same winze. Emergency workers were called to the scene around 3:45 pm. About 60 emergency personnel worked to rescue him, and he was transported by helicopter to a hospital by 11:30 pm. He suffered two fractured ankles, a broken leg, and a broken vertebrae, and was paralyzed from the waist down.	Barstow Desert Dispatch, 4/15/06 Daily Independent, 4/17/06 San Bernardino Co. Sun, 4/25 & 4/27/06 Victorville Daily Press, 4/16/06 [Riverside Press Enterprise, 4/16/06; Victorville Daily Press, 4/15]
2006.04.07	San Bernardino	F	A man (41) and his son (6) were riding OHVs near Calico Ghost Town campground. The man walked 60-90 feet into an adit on private land, fell 40-50 feet down a winze, and died. The son made his way to a nearby house and requested assistance. The body was recovered by Kern and San Bernardino Co. sheriff & fire department personnel.	Barstow Desert Dispatch, 4/8/06; Dailybulletin.com, 7/13/06 (claim); LA Times, 4/11/06; MSHA; San Bernardino Co. Sun, 4/9 & 7/13/06; Victorville Daily Press/Press Dispatch, 4/9/06
2006.03.12	Imperial	V	A driver (62) and passenger (67) in a Suzuki Samurai off-road in a BLM designated "limited use area" drove into mine shaft and fell 25-30 feet to the bottom. They spent 20 hours in the shaft before being rescued by the Yuma FD and other agencies. The driver suffered a possible broken arm; his passenger sustained nicks and cuts. The accident occurred Sunday morning; a search and rescue was initiated Sunday night when the two men failed to return to their camp. BLM El Centro Field Office rangers arranged for a crane to lift out the Suzuki.	BLM Newsbyte, Issue 222, 3/14/06; MSHA; Press Democrat, 3/16/06; Yuma Fire Dept. Press Release, 3/13/06; Yuma Sun.com, 3/13, 3/14, & 3/20/06
2006.03.01	Kern	F	A cattle rancher and his horse nearly fell into a collapsed adit. Rains had weakened the tunnel roof, which was only 2 feet below the surface. The ~6x6x7 sinkhole opened up overnight; the portal had collapsed years ago. The old adit is exposed on either side of the sinkhole. The site is within 10 feet of a road, a few feet off a motorbike trail. A motorbike race is scheduled in less than 2 weeks, there are cattle in the area, and persons use horses in the area.	BLM email, 3/8/06
2006.02.07	San Bernardino	F	Firefighters and volunteers labored hours to extricate a dog from a mine shaft.	Bakersfield Californian, 3/11/06
2006.01.11	Alameda	V	A pickup truck driver crashed in a quarry after illegally steering his vehicle through the mud. This is the same quarry where another pickup driver drove over the quarry edge on Dec. 29.	Alameda Times-Star, 1/12/06
2005.12.29	Alameda	V	A man (23) doing off-road tricks in his pickup careened off the steep edge of an abandoned quarry and slid several hundred feet into a nearby back yard. The driver said he was frightened but not injured by the fall.	Alameda Times-Star, 12/30/05
2005.10.08	Kern	F	A Labrador chasing a rabbit fell down a 50 foot deep shaft. The Indian Wells Valley Mine Rescue group extricated the dog from the shaft.	Daily Independent, 10/8/05
2005.03.25	Kern	V	Two men (28 & 26) rappelled into a 40-foot-deep mine shaft. One man fell 10-15 feet and sustained a broken arm and forehead/knee wounds. The other was unhurt. Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue Team and other local agency personnel rescued them about 5 hours after the accident. Allegedly, the hikers knew the mine was an owl nesting site. A wire fence around the open mine shaft had been partially dismantled. About 50 feet up a nearby trail, a "Danger—open mine shaft" sign was posted. BLM law enforcement cited the men for "creating a nuisance or hazard."	Bakersfield Californian, 3/26/05; Mojave Desert News, 3/26/05; MSHA (from AP & Daily Independent), 3/25/05
2004.12.xx	Kern	V	A man (retired) was driving on a dirt road with his wife and daughter (36), and, while trying to turn around, nearly backed into a 12-foot wide and 53-foot deep abandoned mine shaft. He stopped with his car's left rear tire hanging over the edge, and was able to drive away.	Bakersfield Californian, 4/7/05; NBC4TV, 4/6/05 Pasadena Star-News, 4/7/05 [Bakersfield Californian, 4/7/05; Daily News (LA), 4/7/05]

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2004.11.14	San Bernardino	V	A man (21) riding a motorcycle with 2 friends (both 21) rode up a steep mine dump and fell 700+ feet down an open shaft. A rider following behind barely stopped his motorcycle before also going into the shaft; he grabbed a bush and pulled himself out of the eroded collar of the shaft. The man's body was later recovered by Indian Wells Search and Rescue; Kern Co. fire and sheriff and BLM personnel were also involved. The mineshaft is owned by Silver Dollar Mining Company according to Cheryl Longwith, communications supervisor at the Kern County Sheriff's Department.	AP, 11/14/04; Bakersfield Californian, 11/15 & 11/20/04; Daily Independent, 11/21/04 & 3/17/05; Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, 11/14/04; KESQ/ABC, 11/15/04; MSHA; Orange Co. Register, 11/16/04; Riverside Press Enterprise, 11/16/04. [Long Beach Press Telegram, 11/15/04]
2004.04.19	Riverside	F	A girl (16) hiking with a friend fell 40 to 50 feet down a rocky slope at a rock quarry. She suffered head trauma, and later underwent surgery for her injuries.	MSHA Riverside Press-Enterprise, 4/20/04
2004.04.18	Inyo	F	A dog walking with a family fell into a 4 foot wide/30 foot deep shaft. Five weeks later, 2 men heard the dog in the shaft and rescued it. The dog was later reunited with its owners.	LA Times, 5/20/04
2004.02.14 ?	Kern	V	A boy (11) riding a dirt bike fell into a 40-foot shaft. A parent just in front of him laid down his bike to avoid going into the opening and the man's son just missed falling in. The father of the injured boy and other off-roaders used tow straps hooked to a Jeep to pull him out after about 30 minutes. He was shaken and bruised.	Daily News LA, 02/16/04 (see also Riverside Press Enterprise, 6.28/04)
2003.11.28	Kern	F	A boy (13) and his family walked into an adit, and the boy fell 30 feet down a winze. The family called for help at 1 pm, and firefighters from California City and Kern County, as well as BLM personnel, pulled the boy to safety after 11-1/2 hours. He was uninjured.	Bakersfield Californian, 11/29/03
2003.10.11	Del Norte	V	A man and his son (19) drove their Toyota Landcruiser into a 12-foot wide and 70-foot deep shaft. The father was killed in the accident; the son sustained serious injuries. A fence had previously been installed, but was vandalized and thrown down the shaft at some point prior to the accident. The family of the victims later sued the USFS; the case was dismissed in April 2008.	Del Norte County Triplicate, 11/6 & 11/7/03 (see also Riverside Press Enterprise, 6.28/04, gives Dale Cleveland's age = 45).
2003.04.15	Butte	F	A dog fell into a 50-foot deep mine shaft around mid April, and was rescued in June (eight weeks later). The dog lost a third of its weight, but was otherwise okay.	Chico Enterprise-Record, 11/12/03; News 10.net, 11/11/03; Paradise Post, 6/19 & 11/13/03
2003.03.17	Kern	V	A man (32) fell 50 feet into an abandoned mine shaft after riding through an orange barrier fence on his motorcycle at 2:30 pm. The man hit the bottom but the motorcycle caught on a small ledge and the barrier netting. California City and Kern County fire departments were involved in the rescue. He suffered only minor injuries and was treated at a local hospital.	Bakersfield Californian, 3/17/03; Daily News (LA), 3/17/03
2003.01.07	San Bernardino	V	A boy (14) took a jump on his motorcycle that landed only seven feet from the shaft, and fell 25 feet down into it. He was rescued by his father and several others, and suffered bruised elbows and minor cuts to the stomach.	Daily Independent, 1/7/03.
2002.06.24	Orange	A	Two brothers (18 & 23) and a friend (17) entered an adit, but found their way flooded by water after 100 feet. The brothers swam past the flooded portion. The friend, who refused to go further, went for help when the men didn't return after 2 hours. The bodies of the brothers were retrieved by Orange and Los Angeles County sheriff's department cave divers. Air where the bodies were found contained 4% oxygen.	AP, 6/24/02; L.A. Times, 6/24&26&28/02(2); MSHA; Orange Co. Register, 6/25 & 6/26(2), 7/1/02; SJ Mercury News, 6/25/02; [LB Press-Telegram, 6/25/02; Orange Co. Register, 6/29&30/02; San Diego Union-Tribune, 6/25/02; Ventura Co. Star, 6/25/02]
2002.05.26	Kern	V	A boy (10 or 12) riding a motorcycle broke through planks that covered a mine shaft and fell 200 feet. He plunged through three debris fields during his fall and came to rest on other timbers bridging the shaft (of unknown depth). He was rescued by Kern County Fire Department personnel and airlifted to a hospital in good condition.	Fresno Bee, 5/26/02; High Desert News, 5/26/02; LA Times, 5/27/02. Also Fire Engineering, 8/03.
2002.05.02	El Dorado	F	A dog spent 4 hours in a flooded mine shaft. El Dorado Co. Fire Protection District (Camino) firefighters lassoed the dog and hauled it to safety.	Mountain Democrat, 5/2/02
2001.08.08	Placer	A	Two teenagers found a man's body in a quarry. The Placer Co. Drowning Accident Rescue Team and Rocklin Police Dept. recovered the body, which had been there for some time. It was believed the man may have been a transient who fell into the deep quarry and drowned.	Sacramento Bee, 8/8 & 8/9/01
2001.08.04	El Dorado	O	The hillside below a 5-bedroom home, a unit of an 11-bedroom senior's complex, gave way, exposing a tunnel snaking under the house and extending deep into the hill. The tunnel may have been part of the legendary Pacific Mine which operated in town beginning in the 1850s. Two senior gentleman in the home at the time were unharmed, but all four residents had to be moved out.	Sacramento Bee, 8/12/01
2001.06.02	San Diego	A	A boy (16) drowned in a swimming hole that has been the site of earlier deaths and is cordoned off because of its dangers. The water, surrounded by cliffs, is on private property and is fenced off and posted with no-trespassing signs. Four people have died in Box Canyon over the past two decades, and scores have been injured jumping from the cliffs into the pool.	MSHA; San Diego Union-Tribune, 6/3/01

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Date	County	Type*	Incident Summary	Source/Media Coverage
2000.12.07	Riverside	F	A man (35) fell into a boulder pile in an old rock quarry and was trapped upside down for 2 days. A dozen firefighters rescued him after a passing hiker spotted him. He was treated at a hospital for dehydration, bruises, and ankle pains. He apparently had a flat tire on his car and was walking for help when the accident occurred.	AP 12/9/00. [Riverside Press-Enterprise, 12/9/00; San Diego Union Tribune, 12/9/00; Ventura County Star, 12/9/00]



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