West Virginia
Fatal Summary Report
1997-2019
INTRODUCTION

This study is being conducted on all fatal incidents that have occurred in West Virginia between 1997 and 2019.

The results concluded that **199** fatalities occurred with a total of **3,209** years of mining experience lost.
FATALITIES PER YEAR (1972-1996)
FATALITIES PER YEAR (1997-2019)

(* Sago occurred in 2006 (*) UBB occurred in 2010
FATALITIES PER MONTH

(*) Sago occurred in January  
(**) UBB occurred in April
FATALITIES PER DAY OF WEEK

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday
24% of A.M. fatalities occurred between 6AM and 7AM.
28% OF P.M. FATALITIES OCCURRED BETWEEN 3PM AND 4PM
FATALITIES PER SHIFT

(*) Sago and UBB occurred on the Day Shift

Day 8am-4pm | Evening 4pm-12am | Midnight 12am-8am
**FATALITIES PER REGION AND COUNTY**

- Upshur: 13
- Tucker: 2
- Taylor: 1
- Randolp: 5
- Preston: 2
- Monogalia: 5
- Marshall: 11
- Marion: 4
- Harrison: 1
- Brooke: 1
- Berkeley: 3
- Barbour: 1
- Wyoming: 13
- McDowell: 9
- Wayne: 1
- Mingo: 9
- Logan: 9
- Boone: 29
- Mercer: 1
- Webster: 2
- Raleigh: 42
- Nicholas: 1
- Kanawha: 17
- Greenbrier: 5
- Fayette: 7
- Clay: 2

- Region 1: Westover
- Region 2: Welch
- Region 3: Danville
- Region 4: Oak Hill

(*) Sago occurred in Upshur (***) UBB occurred in Raleigh
FATALITIES PER COAL SEAM

- *UBB occurred at the Eagle Seam
- *Sago occurred at the Middle Kittanning Seam
FATALITIES PER SEAM HEIGHT

- 48" & Under
- Both
- 49" & Up

- 96
- 18
- 38
WORKER FATALITIES

- Union/Union-Free
  - UMWA
  - 27%

- 73%
100% are Male

Male

Female
54% OF MINE FATALITY VICTIMS ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 41 AND 50
FATALITIES PER MINE EXPERIENCE

FATALITIES DO NOT DISCRIMINATE
THE MAJORITY OF MINE FATALITIES OCCUR UNDERGROUND
SEVENTY-SIX PERCENT OF UNDERGROUND MINE FATALITIES ARE LOCATED INBY.
LEADING CAUSE OF MINING FATALITIES

Causes of Fatalities

- Roof/Rib/Wall Fall
- Explosion *
- Fire
- Electrical
- Mobile Equipment
- Underground Machine
- Outburst
- Entrapment
- Drowning
- Innundation
- Slip/Fall of Person
- Other

* 29 miners died from the explosion at UBB
* 12 miners died from the explosion at Sago
ROOF, WALL OR RIB FALL FATALITIES
FATALITIES PER MINE SIZE
(NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES)

Mine Size

144
55

FATALITIES
0-50
51+

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
FATALITIES PER OCCUPATION

*CONTINUOUS MINER OPERATOR IS THE LEADING OCCUPATION FOR FATALITIES
FOURTEEN PERCENT OF FATALITIES ARE SUPERVISORS
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS ACCOUNT FOR 20% OF FATALITIES

Fatalities

- Independent Contractors
- Employed by Mining Company

80%
20%