

FATAL ACCIDENTS IN VANCOUVER ISLAND COAL MINES (1920 to 1939)

YEAR	COLLIERY	DATE	NAME	OCCUPATION	DETAILS
1920	Not complete				
	#1 Mine	Jan 14	Tom Moore		Died today from effects of accident yesterday
	Harewood	Jan 30	George Ward		Died from fall of rock this afternoon
	Reserve	Apr 12	Edward Milburn		Died yesterday, Crushed between car and prop.
	Morden	Apr 23	Bart Galitzky		Died today from fall of coal
	S Wellington #5	July 6	Francis Richard Bateman		Died today as a result of a fall of coal Tuesday last.
	Granby	Aug 21	Jacob Matvichuk (Matvechuk)		Died today when caught between coal cars when coupling broke
	Granby	Aug 30	James Mitchell		Died today when struck by runaway timber tram
	Western Fuel Co.	Oct 12	Thomas William Harris	Conductor	Conductor on Western Fuel Co. coal train. Died when run over on the Harewood-Wakesiah railway after slipping between the cars
	Extension	Oct 23	Michael Thompson		Found dead last night after falling underneath a trip of coal
	Morden #3 South Dip	Nov 6	Tony Sebala	Miners Helper	Died accidentally at 5:30 am by a fall from a scaffold through the breaking of a brace, which was holding the scaffold. The jury in the inquiry recommended that cedar not be used for braces.
	Granby	Nov 18	James McKeowan	Carpenter	Died today of injuries sustained 3 weeks ago
	#1 Mine	Dec 4	Ernest Waites		Killed yesterday due to a cave in
1921	Not Complete				
	Comox (C C) 4, Extension (C.C) 1 Granby 3				

1922					
	WFC#1 & Protection Shafts	Jan 31	Alex. Dunsmore	Miner	Fatally injured; fractured ribs, compound fracture left leg, caused by fall of coal from roof.
	Granby #1	June 30	Murdock McLeod	Miner	Suffocated by an outbreak of gas and coal in No. 3 room, No.1 slope, No.6 North level. Fatal
	Granby #1	July 6	Richard Barichillo	Miner	Suffocated by an outbreak of gas and coal in No. 4 room, No.6 North level. Fatal
	Comox #4	Aug 30	R. K. Dunsire	Miners helper	Killed by explosion
	"	"	John Gibson	"	"
	"	"	John Johnston	"	"
	"	"	H. Kajiyamii	"	"
	"	"	C. Sayano	"	"
	"	"	S. Shigimi	"	"
	"	"	Leung Hor	"	"
	"	"	Wee Noon	"	"
	"	"	Leung Man	"	"
	"	"	Looy Chun	"	"
	"	"	Mah Wing	"	"
	"	"	Wong Yim	"	"
	"	"	R. Yoshido	"	Subsequently died as result of injuries
	"	"	G. Suyamo	"	"
	"	"	M. Watanaba	"	"
	"	"	Chin Nan	"	"
	"	"	Yee Toy	"	"
	"	"	Loo Foon	"	"
	Reserve	Sept 8	Mathew T Mathews	Miner	Fracture of base of skull, caused by a fall of top coal. Fatal
	Granby #1	Sept 18	Robert W Morgan	Miner	Fatally injured by a fall of top coal, No. 2 pillar, No.5 South level.
	Granby #1	Oct 23	John Bradley	Rope-rider	Broken neck, back, pelvis, and left arm when run over by full trip. Fatal

	Wakesiah	Nov 24	Alfred Odgers	Fireboss	Killed by an explosion of gas
	Wakesiah	"	Gilbert McBroom	Pumpman	"
	Granby #1	Nov 25	Hector Guilette	Miner	Asphyxiated by gas; passed through fenced-off working-place, temporarily abandoned (Breach of C.M.R.A.)
1923					
	W.F.C. #1	Jan 22	Jos. Blackburn	Rock-picker	Right leg torn off through slipping on top of casing covering screw conveyor and having his foot caught by screw. Fatal
	W.F.C. Reserve	Mar 9	Wasył Laba	Miner	Compound fracture of right femur caused by falling rock, Fatal
	W.F.C. Reserve	July 18	Sandy Fulla	Miner	Broken nose and cut about the face when a large piece of rock fell on his neck, knocking his face on the rail. Subsequently died 5 days later.
	W.F.C. Protection	June 4	Albert Mortimer	Driver	Fractured thigh, pelvis crushed, and internal injuries, caused through being squeezed between loaded car and one of the uprights of the shaft timbers. Fatal
	W.F.C Protection	Nov 19	James Cook	Miner	Crushing injuries to right side and shoulder, side of chest; when moving rock from side of pillar large piece rolled over, knocking out three timbers and jamming Cook up against mine-car. Fatal
	W.F.C. Southside #1	Sept 4	James Blade	Miner	Fatally injured when coal fell from side, knocking timbers out and causing the roof to fall in.
	"	"	Geo Morgan	"	"
	Comox #4 (Explosion)	Feb 8	Leung Toy Sing	Miner's Helper	Killed
	"	"	Jew Hung Kit	Miner's Helper	Killed
	"	"	Wo Wee How	Miner's Helper	Killed
	"	"	Jung Wah	Miner's Helper	Killed
	"	"	Fong Dong	Miner's Helper	Killed

	“	“	Wong Toy Sing	Miner	Killed
	“	“	Jung Hah	Miner	Killed
	“	“	Jung Tow	Miner	Killed
	“	“	Sick Quee	Miner	Killed
	“	“	Jung Ding	Miner	Killed
	“	“	Jung Kept	Miner's Helper	Killed
	“	“	Louise Long	Miner	Killed
	“	“	Choy Duck	Miner's Helper	Killed
	“	“	Jung Woy	Miner's Helper	Killed
	“	“	Hing Jung	Miner's Helper	Killed
	“	“	Jung Dong	Driver	Killed
	“	“	Jung Ping Poy	Miner's Helper	Killed
	“	“	Lee Goon	Miner's Helper	Killed
	“	“	Jung Gar Kay	Miner	Killed
	“	“	J Turner	Labourer	Killed
	“	“	R Smith	Miner	Killed
	“	“	G Martinello	Tracklayer	Killed
	“	“	J Freloni	Hoist-Boy	Killed
	“	“	W Mitchell	Hoist-Boy	Killed
	“	“	Wm Whitehouse	Fireboss	Killed
	“	“	T Williams	Miner	Killed
	“	“	Norman Huby	Shiftboss	Killed
	“	“	V Cavallero	Miner	Killed
	“	“	D Sommerville	Rope-rider	Killed
	“	“	A Bonora	Miner	Killed
	“	“	A Charleston	Miner	Killed
	“	“	Alexander Robertson	Miner	Killed
	“	“	P Manincora	Miner	Killed
	Comox #4	Jun 4	Chan Yock	Miner	Killed by falling rock.
	Comox #4	July 20	Wong Chung	Labourer	Fatally injured when struck by empty trip going down the slope.
	Comox #4	Aug 20	Mah Lung	Slopeman	Fatally injured when struck by trip

	Comox #4	Sep 10	How Mow	Miner	Fatally injured by falling rock
	Granby #1	May 12	Alphonse Clark	Switcher	Fractured right thigh, fractured base of skull, and injuries to the chest when struck by empty trip. Fatal
1924					
	East Wellington	Jan 17	Carlo Genovise		Squeezed between a car and post while on his way out of mine at end of shift.
	East Wellington	Jan 29	Chan Chung Chap		Thrown out of mine car on the main hoisting slope. Deceased was riding down the slope on an ordinary trip contrary to rules. Draw bar on one of the cars broke and trip ran away. Deceased suffered fractured skull when thrown out of car.
	W.F.C. Wakesiah	Mar 4	Andrew Dougall		Crushed by cutter bar of mining machine. Deceased was engaged taking the cutter bar out of the mining cut to change picks and almost got the bar clear of the coal when he turned around to push the air hose back; while turned away from the machine, the cutter bar caught his trousers and dragged him underneath, inflicting injuries from which he died 30 hours later
	Nanoose Mine	Mar 27	James Branch		Small fall of roof rock and coal mixed.
	Granby #1	Apr 29	Robert H Bamford		Caused by a fall of a piece of cap rock. Deceased was in a kneeling position sawing a prop when piece of cap rock caught him on the small of the back
	Comox #5	May 22	William J Jones	Coal cutter operator	Caused by large fall of rock
	"	"	John Joseph Kirkbride	Track layer	"
1925					
	W.F.C. Wakesiah	May 6	Walter P Clark	Miner	A heavy piece of coal broke away from a slip at

					the face and in falling it knocked out two posts. A heavy piece of cap-rock started moving and swung two other posts out, allowing the rock and timbers to fall on the deceased.
	Wellington Extension #2	May 15	Peter Whiskers	Miner	A shot had just been fired, and the fireboss states he examined the place and the miners had returned to the face, when a piece of rock about 6 by 3 feet and 18 inches thick fell on the deceased, striking him on the back, causing internal injuries which proved fatal.
	W.F.C. Reserve	July 26	George Scales	Tracklayer	The deceased was waiting at the siding for a pair of rails which he had loaded on top of a car of coal; when the car was lowered to the siding one of the rails apparently struck him, causing injuries from which he died eight hours later.
	Granby #1	July 14	Joseph Lavin	Shiftboss	Caused by being run over with a trip of cars on the haulage slope. Deceased was riding up the slope on a trip of cars when he jumped from the trip while in motion and in some manner his legs got under the wheels of the cars. Died two days later from shock of operation.
	Wakesiah	Sep 10	William Logan	Miner	Caused by fall of rock
	South Wellington #5	Nov 2	Peter Walker Cameron	Miner	Caused by fall of rock
	1926				
	W.F.C. Reserve	Feb 4	John W Gray	Miner	Instantly killed by fall of coal.
	W.F.C. Reserve	Aug 23	William Foy	Miner	Instantly killed by fall of roof rock at face.
	Comox #4 (C.C.)	May 22	How Tai	Driver	Instantly killed when struck by derailed car.
	Granby #1	Mar 25	David Alton	Miner	Instantly killed by blow-out of gas and coal
	Granby #1	April 6	Bert Conti	Miner	Instantly killed by bow-out of gas and coal
	"	"	Frank Sundberg	Miner	"
	Granby #1	Sep 13	Thos. C. Wales	Rope-Rider	Instantly killed when car ran over him.

	East Wellington #1	Nov 10	George Edgar	Miner	Instantly killed when struck by falling rock
1927					
	Wakesiah	Jan 13	John F Weber	Fireboss	Caused by suffocation. Weber had gone into idle district. It was several hours before his disappearance was noted and on search being made he was found dead beneath some loose debris which had been disturbed at the face.
	W.F.C. #1	Jan 26	Leon Carles	Miner	Due to a fall of rock and coal in his working place. On the shotfirer returning to examine the place after the shot had been fired, Carles had followed him at an interval of a few yards. Before the shotfirer had time to examine the place a large boulder of rock and coal fell and rolled a short distance past him and pinned Carles against a post with fatal results.
	W.F.C. #1	Feb 19	William Orme	Brusher	Caused by a fall of coal and rock a short time after a brushing shot had been fired for him.
	Granby #1		Nestor Alton	Miner	Due to a fall of rock in his working place. A sudden roof movement displaced some timbers and broke others, allowing a cave of large rock; same being about 50 tons.
	Granby #1 – entrance of #5 – North level	Aug 22	Hugh McReynolds		Due to the deceased being crushed between a derailed trip of empty cars going down the main slope and a prop. McReynolds had carried some tools out to the slope for service in another part of the mine and while waiting to communicate with the Rope-rider in charge of the trip the accident happened.
	Comox #4	Oct 5	T. Tateishi	Miner	Due to a fall of top coal which knocked deceased against a cog and broke his neck. He died on October 7 th as a result of his injuries.
	Granby #1	Dec 13	Charles Bell	Switcher	Due to deceased being crushed between a car

					and a post. Deceased was riding on an empty trip and had swung himself to one side in order to hold the cars down while on a curve. His body projected beyond the cars and was caught by the timbers supporting the roof, with fatal results.
1928					
	Reserve	May 23	Andrew Slater	Miner	Due to a fall of rock
	Reserve	July 20	William Cooper	Miner	Due to a blow out of coal and gas in their working place
	"	"	Eli Ruski	Miner	"
	Reserve	Sept 25	Thomas Smith	Miner	Caused by fall of rock in his working place; this place was found to be defectively timbered.
	Wellington Extension #2	Oct 25	Richard Morgan	Tracklayer	Due to his being squeezed or knocked down by a horse and an empty car. He was discovered lying unconscious on the roadway and died some days later
	Granby #1	Dec 20	Thomas Radford	Winch-driver	Due to his being caught in the gears of his hoist.
1929					
	Comox #4	June 17	H. Yamanaka	Driver	Due to his being crushed by part of a runaway trip of loaded cars.
	Lantzville Colliery	June 27	Felix Doumont	Miner	Due to being struck by an empty car near the foot of the Main slope. Due to a lack of system on the surface, a car attached to the haulage-rope was pushed over the brow of the slope while the hoistman was absent. The car struck Doumont who died two days later.
	Comox #4	Sept 23	Chew Gah Ken	Miners helper	Due to being crushed between a loaded car and the side of the haulage incline.
	W.F.C. #1	Oct 26	Alexander Rowan	Fireboss	Due to a fall of rock. Deceased had fired a shot and on returning to the face to make an

					examination was caught by a fall of rock; he was in the act of examining the roof when he was killed.
	Extension #1	Dec 23	A Badavinac	Miner	Due to a large fall of rock. Deceased and his partner were engaged in timbering their working place when the roof gave away without warning.
	W.F.C. #1	Dec 18	Nazareno Casilio	Miner	Caused by a fall of rock at a machine-cut face. Deceased had loosened some coal, which in falling displaced some posts and allowed the roof-rock to fall on him.
1930					
	Extension #2	Feb 19	Joseph Reciputo	Miner	Due to a fall of coal. Deceased was taking out bottom coal at the time when some top coal which was not properly secured fell on him.
	W.F.C. #1	May 26	Antonio Percko	Miner	Due to a fall of rock which caused a compound fracture of the right leg. Deceased died from shock the following day.
	W.F.C. #1	June 23	Paul Pavlich	Labourer	Due to a fall of rock. Deceased was moving a conveyor when a post either swung out or was knocked out, allowing a thin slab of rock to fall on deceased, forcing his face into the fine coal cuttings on the floor. He suffocated before he could be released.
	Comox #5	June 30	A. Guy	Miner	Due to a fall of rock in his working place. Deceased and partner were preparing to set a prop under this part of the roof when it fell. Deceased noticed the roof giving away and shouted to his partner to jump, but was caught himself
1931					

	Extension #5	Aug 8	Andrew Parker	Miner	Due to a fall of a piece of centre rock from the coal-face; both legs were broken and deceased died from shock the following day.
	W.F.C. #1	Oct 8	Joseph Moric	Miner	Due to a fall of rock which fell on him and caused death by suffocation.
	Comox #4	Dec 11	Young Mow	Timberman's Helper	Due to his being run over by a trip on #2 slope.
1932					
	W.F.C. #1	April 25	Arnold Bell	Switcher	Due to his being struck by an empty trip of cars which he had belled into a parting
	Comox #4	July 4	Yong Yee	Timberman	Due to a fall of roof and timber when engaged in retimbering at that point.
1933					
	None				
1934					
	Comox #4	May 2	William McMillan	Miner	Due to a fall of coal and cap-rock from the working face. Deceased had had a shot fired in his working place, but the shot did not lodge the coal, and while completing the work of the shot with his pick the coal and cap-rock fell outwards and killed him instantly.
	S Wellington #5	Nov 11	Harry A Meikle	Timberman	Due to a large fall of rock in an old roadway which he was retimbering
1935					
	Comox #5	Jan 25	Thomas Robertson	Rope Rider	Due to being crushed by a stringer 16 feet long and approximately 15 inches in diameter which deceased and another man were loading on a trip of empty mine-cars; one end of the stringer was placed on the mine-cars and Robertson was holding the other end when his foot slipped on a rail and he fell; the timer rolled on him and crushed his head, killing him instantly..

	Comox #4	Jan 25	Yukutoro Kawaguchi	Miner	Due to deceased being crushed between a loaded car and a post; deceased was taking the loaded car from his working place to the parting and was caught against a post that had been recently placed to reinforce the original timber.
	Comox #4	Jan 28	James Walker	Mechanic	Due to the deceased being struck by a runaway trip of five loaded cars; while the trip of cars was being hoisted the rope slipped on the drum and gave some slack rope. The first three cars of the trip were over the knuckle of the level landing and the last two cars were still on the slope at this moment, and when the rope was slackened the rope rider accidentally pulled the clevis-pin and the trip ran back down the slope, where it caused injuries to Walker from which he died on February 9 th .
	W.F.C. #1	Dec 22	Lewis Houston	Miner	<p>Due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Deceased and three other miners started work at 11pm on the 21st on the diagonal slope, where the few remaining pillars in this area were being extracted.</p> <p>About 3 am on the morning of the 22nd Houston complained to the other men of being ill and stopped work for a little time, then had lunch with the other men and later resumed work, but again felt ill; he sat down until the other men finished work at about 6 am and started to go home with them, but experienced difficulty in walking.</p> <p>The others assisted him to a point about 1200 feet from the working place, at which point he collapsed and lost consciousness. Artificial respiration was applied immediately, but</p>

					Houston did not respond to this treatment and he was hurried to the surface, where medical treatment failed to revive him and he was pronounced dead at 7 am
1936					
	W.F.C. #1	Feb 6	John W Bilton	Rope Rider	Due to deceased being struck by a car loaded with timber; the car had been derailed on an incline and deceased had put the car on the track and stood behind the car when he signaled the winchman to pull ahead. When the winch started a bull-wheel pulled out and allowed the car to run back over deceased.
	W.F.C.#1	May 22	Thomas White	Tracklayer	Due to a small breaker-post which fell off a bench of brushing and struck him on the back, fracturing one of the transverse spinal processes; deceased apparently was making a good recovery, but died suddenly on June 17 th , on which day he was to have been discharged from hospital.
	Reserve Mine(W.F.C.)	Aug 10	Joseph Dixon	Miner	Due to deceased being struck by a loaded car; this car was moving at little more than walking pace and a fellow employee shouted a warning to look out for the car, but the warning was either unheard or ignored; the roadway at this point was 7 feet high and 13 feet wide and free from any obstructions. Ordinary care on the part of the deceased would have averted this accident.
	W.F.C.#1	Aug18	George W Mortimer	Miner	Due to a fall of roof in his working-place; this place was alongside a fault and was being abandoned after deceased completed the car he was then loading; this place was fairly well timbered, but in view of the vicinity of the

					above-mentioned fault special precautions in the way of extra timber should have been observed.
	W.F.C.#1	Dec 31	James Waugh	Driver	<p>Due to electrocution. Deceased was at work in the Protection area and all the men in this area reach and leave their work by means of Protection shaft; on this day, Waugh and another driver had finished their work about 10 PM and instead of waiting to ascend Protection shaft with the other men of the shift, they decided to walk out to No. 1 shaft by way of No. 1 level; this level is equipped for overhead electric trolley haulage, the voltage being 250, and about half-way to No. 1 shaft Waugh made contact with the trolley-wire and sustained a shock from which he did not recover consciousness.</p> <p>As this was the last shift of the year there were very few men in the mine and none in this vicinity; the man who was with Waugh ran to the motor-barn, half a mile distant, and got an electric locomotive which he drove to where Waugh was lying and took him out to No.1 shaft and brought him out to surface, where artificial resuscitation was tried without avail; about 45 minutes elapsed between the accident and attempts at resuscitation. When men are required to travel along this level to and from their work the electric power is cut off the trolley-wire, but deceased had not been authorized to travel by this route.</p>
1937					
	Beban mine	Apr 27	James A Barbour	Millwright	Due to deceased being struck by a falling

					timber which he had failed to fasten securely while engaged in constructing a small bunker at the mine; deceased was not a mine employee.
	Comox #5	May 30	Paul Toth	Miners-helper	Due to a fall of roof at his working-face; the place was well timbered, but an unforeseen slip permitted the roof to break the laggings between the last stringer and the face, and caused the stringer to swing out of its proper position and allow a large cave of roof-rock. Toth was instantly killed.
	Beban mine	June 11	George N Shepherd	Miner	Due to an inrush of water from the abandoned workings of the adjacent No.1 mine, Wellington Extension colliery; these abandoned and flooded workings, abandoned in 1901, proved to have been advanced 350 feet further than shown on the mine-plan.
	"	"	Joseph H Shepherd	Miner	"
	"	"	Joseph Carr	Miner	"
	Reserve mine	July 19	Samuel K Mottishaw	Fireboss	Due to deceased being crushed between a loaded car and the roof timbers while riding up a slope. Deceased was riding in contravention of the regulations.
	Reserve mine	Nov 4	John Bowness	Miner	Due to a fall of rock at the working-face; the face was well timbered , but a large rock broke from an unforeseen slip and swung out the timber at the face, killing deceased instantly.
	Northfield mine	Dec 29	Tudor Sainsbury	Miner	Due to a fall of roof at the working-face; the place was well timbered but an undetected slip at the immediate face permitted a fall of roof which displaced the last set of timber; deceased was covered by the material which fell and died from suffocation before being uncovered by his fellow-employees who had immediately started rescue-work.

	Comox #5	Feb 10	Mike Zenovich	Miner	Died as a result of his injuries received on August 21, 1933
1938					
	W.F.C#1	Oct 25	Robert Forrester	Carpenter	Occurred at the tipple on the surface; deceased was engaged in reriffing a coal-washing table and was using an extension electric-light cord. The light cord came in contact with the revolving shaft and deceased was entangled in the coils of the cord and drawn around the shaft. He died from his injuries a few hours later. Deceased had done this same work on numerous occasions during the previous fifteen years.
1939					
	Beban mine	Oct 17	Alexander Webster	Miner	Due to a fall of coal in his working-place. The place was in disturbed ground with numerous slips in the seam and roof, and coal fell from one of these slips ahead of the actual working-face. Efficient spragging to meet the known conditions in this place would have averted this fatality.