THE OPERATION

MINE CROSS-SECTION

Paparoa Ranges

Coal Seam

Drill site

1 **Ventilation shaft** above working face used for air testing

2 **Working face** tunnels in operation at time of explosion

3

Pit Bottom
Mining area, location of Friday's explosion

4 **Defence robot** will enter mine through access tunnel

Access tunnel

5 Tunnel entrance

Fibre optic cable will run to ventilation shaft

1 VENTILATION SHAFT

2 COAL MINE'S WORKING FACE

3 DRILLING RIG

The drilling of a 162m-deep bore hole will also continue today.

The miners haven't been heard from since a large explosion shortly before 4pm on Friday.

READY AND WAITING

Rescuers are on standby to enter the Pike River coal mine, with specialised equipment tailored to the conditions underground.

Rescuer

- Hearing protection
- Protective clothing similar to miners'
- Long duration BG4 breathing apparatus
- Gas testing devices
- Extra lighting and basic tools
- Communication devices
- First aid kit, resuscitation kit
- A safety line to lead them out

Miner

- Hearing and eye protection and safety helmet with miner's battery powered lamp
- High vis gear
- Lamp battery
- Gloves
- A self-rescue device on their hip which produces oxygen for up to an hour
- Steel-capped waterproof boots

4 DEFENCE ROBOT

A specially-adapted NZ Defence Force robot will be sent into the mine, which is full of toxic fumes, to see if there are any signs of the men.

A camera will be attached to the robot, which will also detect levels of dangerous methane and carbon dioxide gases.

5 ACCESS TUNNEL

2.3km to tunnel entrance