Rescuers race to save miners

The rescue effort
Rescue workers are drilling holes in the ground to try and supply oxygen to the trapped miners. In addition, they are also pumping water out of the mine shaft.

Late yesterday afternoon, workers began drilling a 36” hole in an attempt to lower rescue workers to the trapped miners.

The miners
Eighteen miners were working in Quecreek Mine late Wednesday. While nine were digging in a straight path (A), nine others took another route (B), eventually coming to the walls supporting the Saxman #2 mine. The crew unknowingly dug through the wall (C), releasing a rush of water.

Mine entrances
Seven shafts were drilled at 18 feet wide by 52 inches high.

A grid pattern is used throughout the mine. The lighter area representing the untouched, supporting walls.

Approximate location of trapped miners

Stacy Innerst, Steve Thomas, Bill Pliske and James Histon/Post-Gazette