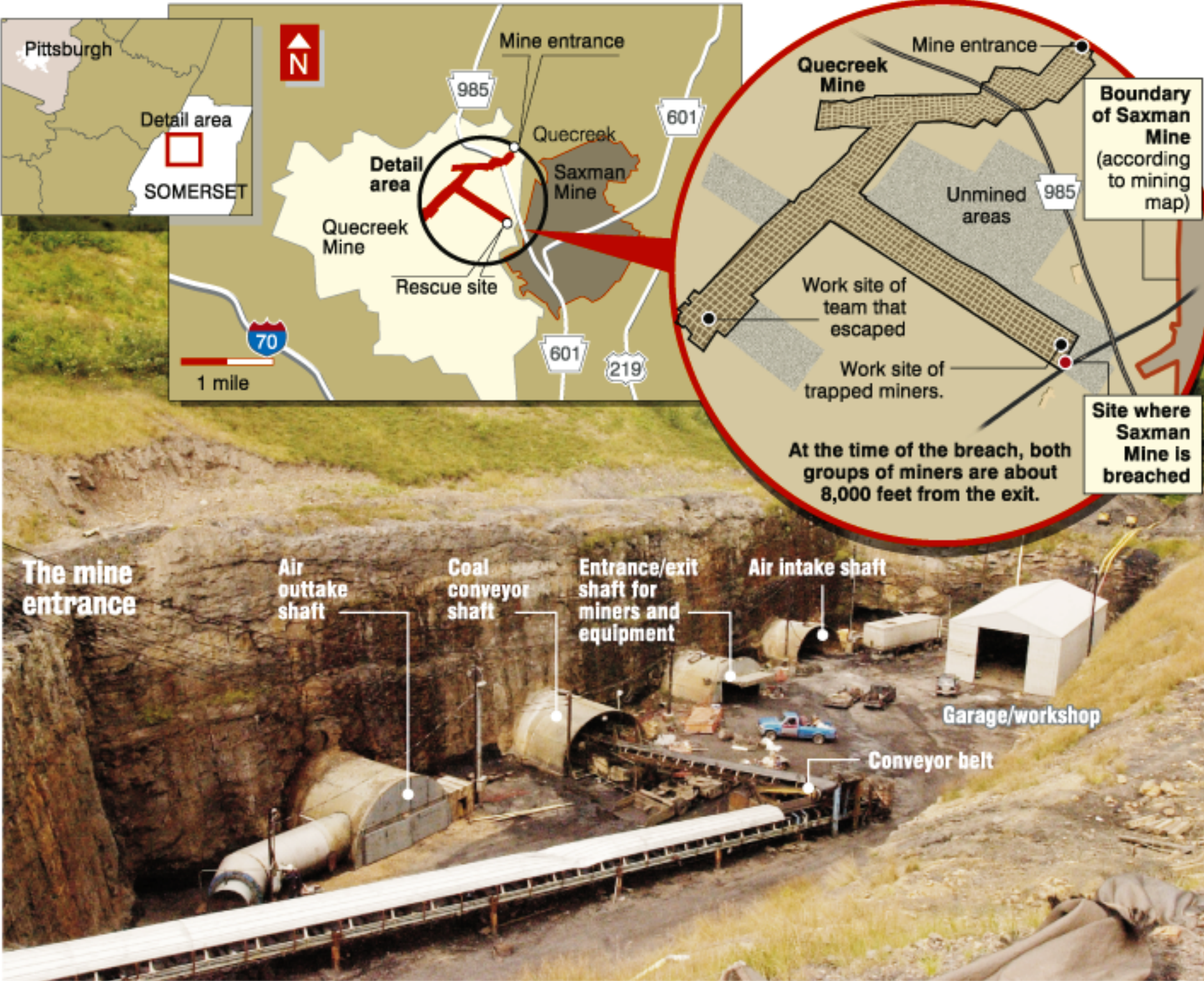


# Setting the scene

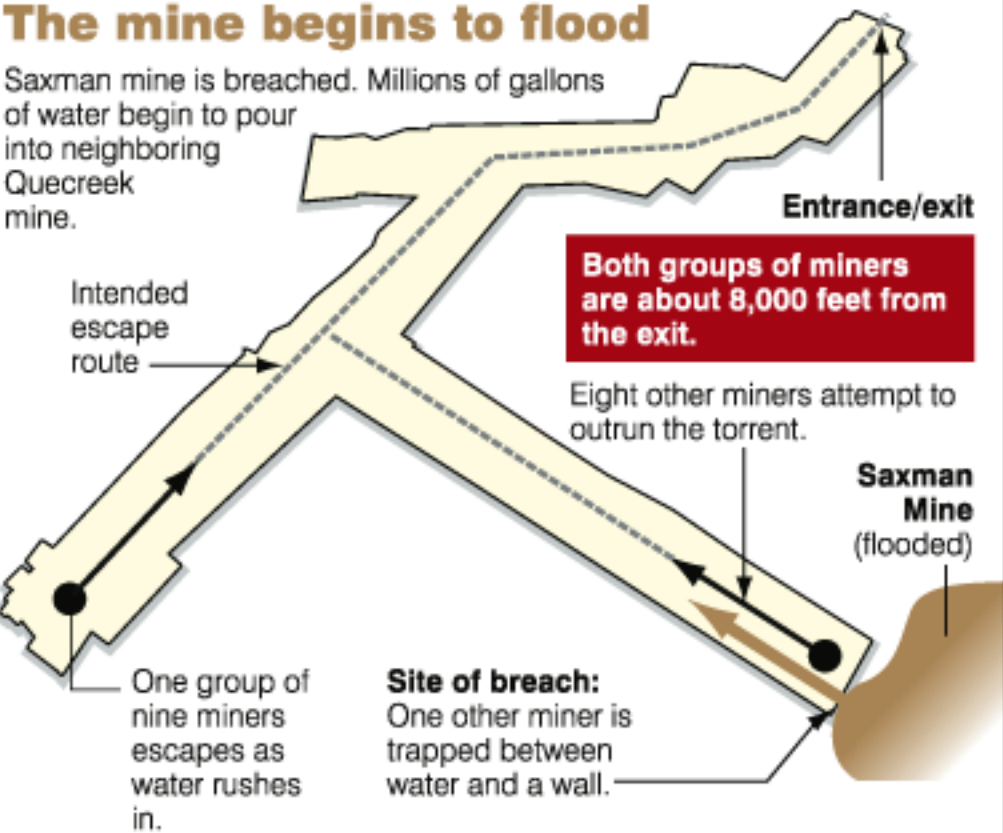
Nine men escape, nine men are trapped and rescuers must work aggressively yet cautiously to avert tragedy.



## Facing the problems

### The mine begins to flood

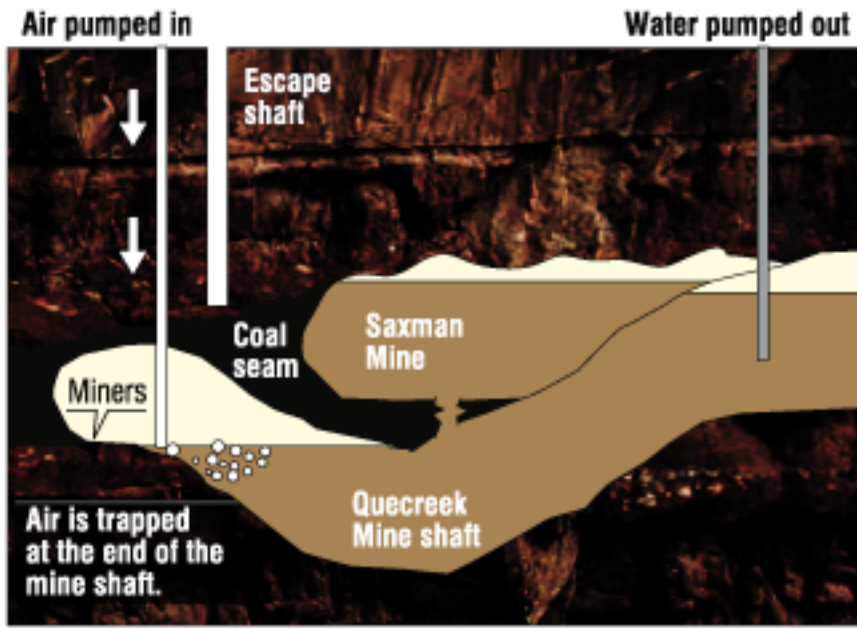
Saxman mine is breached. Millions of gallons of water begin to pour into neighboring Quecreek mine.



### The situation

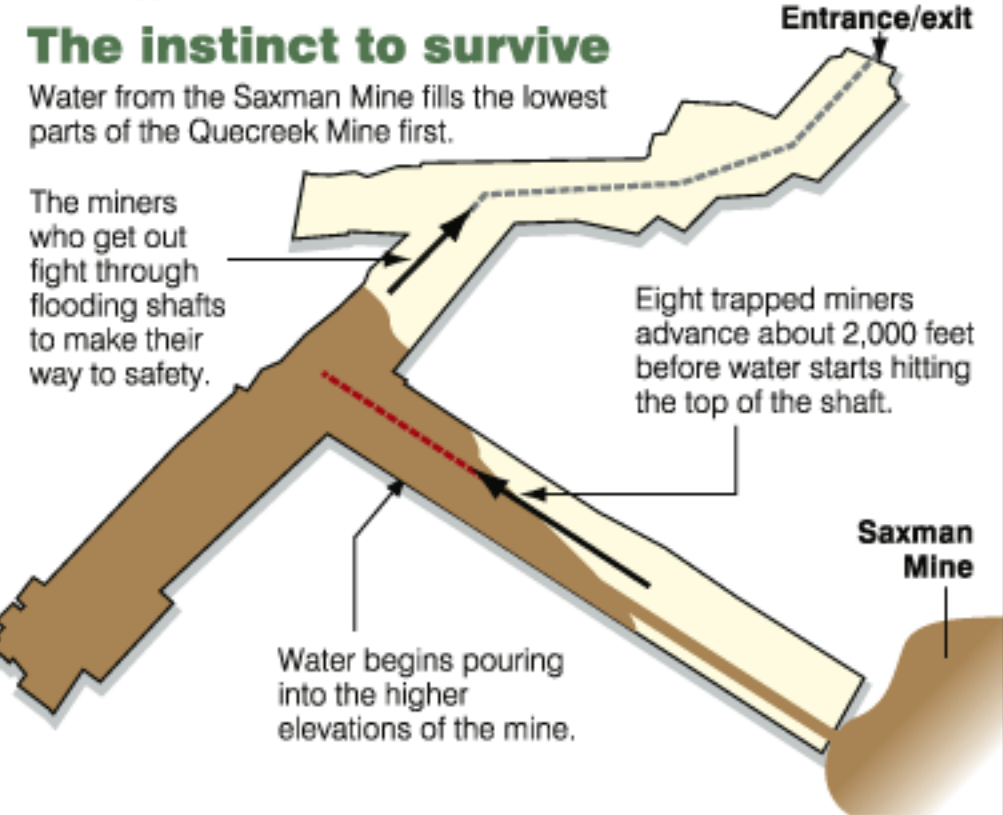
Nine miners are trapped 245 feet underground in a flooded shaft, but breathing because air is being pumped to them.

Graphics not to scale. Schematic only.



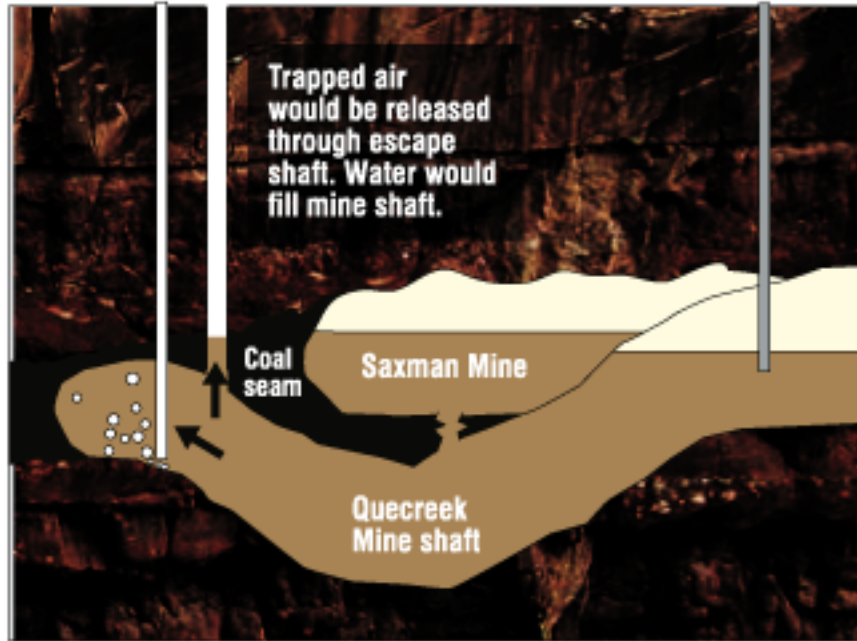
### The instinct to survive

Water from the Saxman Mine fills the lowest parts of the Quecreek Mine first.



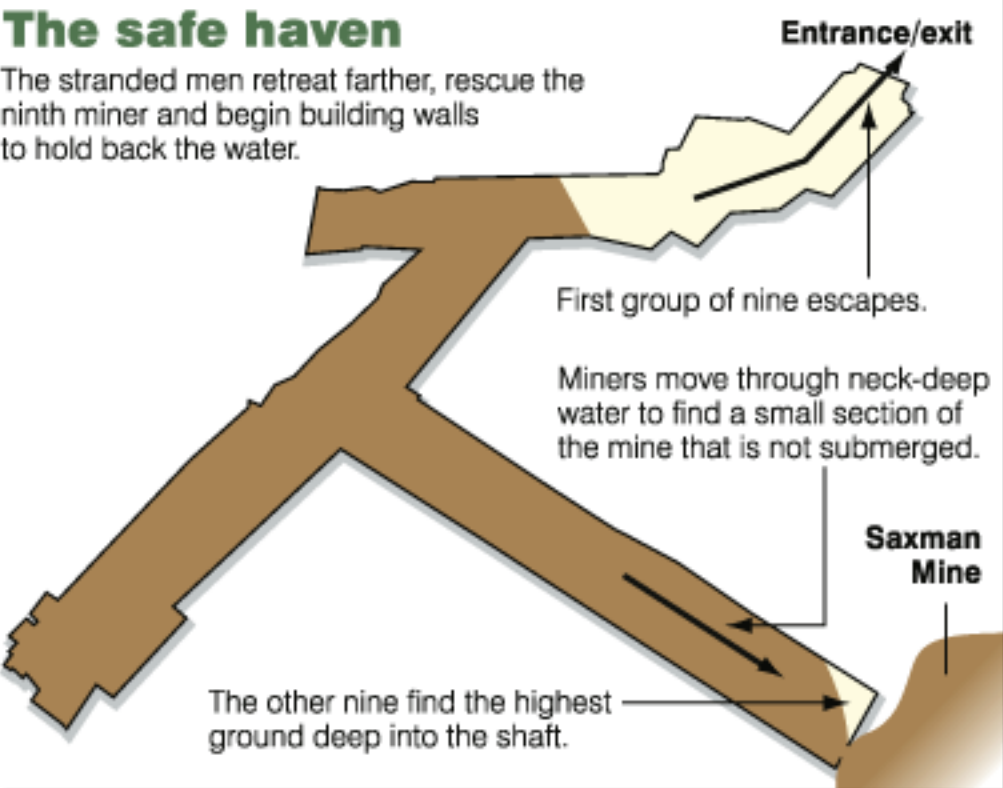
### The peril

If a "super drill" trying to reach the men enters the shaft too rapidly, the miners' life-sustaining air pocket could be destroyed.



### The safe haven

The stranded men retreat farther, rescue the ninth miner and begin building walls to hold back the water.



### The solution

Rescuers pump water from the mine. Water recedes and pressure is relieved as air pocket expands. The drill can now continue without fear of flooding the shaft.

