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

The instinct to survive
Water from the Saumon Mine fills the lowest parts of the Quecreek Mine first. The miners who get out right through flooding shafts to make their way to safety.

The safe haven
The stranded men farthest, rescue the miners and begin building walls to hold back the water.

The situation
Nine miners are trapped 2,45 feet underground in a flooded shaft, but breathing because air is being pumped to them.

The peril
If a “super drill” trying to reach the men enters the shaft too rapidly, the miners’ air supplies would be destroyed.

The solution
Rescue pump water from the mine. Water reaches and pressure is relieved as air pockets expand. The drill can now continue without fear of flooding the shaft.

Sources: Ph. Dept. of Environmental Protection, Christopher J. Biese/Peun State professor of mining and environmental engineering, accounts of miners.

James Histon, Stacy Inneman, Steve Thomas/Post-Gazette