Nine men out
How a crew of Somerset County coal miners became trapped in a flooded shaft, then hung on for 78 hours while the world rooted for their rescue.

Scene 1
- The wall is breached at Entry No. 6.
- Mark Popernack jumps out of way and into Entry No. 7, where he gets trapped.
- Thomas For and Randy Fogle, telling the crew to get out.
- Central (the phone) and Yates (the miners) talk to the miners in the flooded shaft.
- Yates tells the miners to follow the conveyor belt.

Scene 2 (above)
- Miners descend about 2,000 feet to discover the water is "crooking," or hitting the mine shaft roof.
- Then turn around, press against the curve.

Scene 3
- Upon returning, the miners see that Popernack is trapped between entries 6 and 7.
- Randy Fogle maneuvers the scooper, a small fighter, and saves the scooper by bringing in a tank of water so Popernack can jump in.

Scene 4
- The crew decides to build cement block barriers to try to hold the water back.
- An air shaft is drilled from above into Entry No. 4, and an inflatable air bag is run out.
- Five wells are built. Advancing water makes it impossible to fill the fifth wall.

Scene 5 (top)
- Replied to base of Entry No. 1.
- Miners take turns hanging on the pipe until water gets too high.

Graphic by Daniel Mansula, James Hislop and Ted Crop/Post-Gazette