

DEFINITION OF HARDROCK MINING TERMS

Adit - A level, horizontal drift or passage from the surface into a mine.

Borehole - A vertical or inclined hole, used for ventilation from one level to another, or to carry waterlines or electrical wires. May be large enough for a man to climb through, but much smaller than a raise.

Cage - The compartment the men ride in, inside the shaft.

Cager - The operator of the cage who signals, or “bells” the hoistman to raise or lower the cage.

Chippy - The hoist used for men and materials, rather than ore.

Collar - The point at which a shaft intersects the surface or underground haulage level.

Crosscut - A level tunnel driven across the mineral vein.

Deck - The platform that makes up the floor of the chippy. Many chippies have multiple decks.

Diggers - The clothes a miner wears underground.

Double-jack - 12 lb. sledge hammer.

Drift - A horizontal tunnel driven along the mineral vein.

Dry - The shower house for miners. Dry clothes are left there and diggers put on.

Face - The end of the drift, crosscut, or tunnel, generally where the miners work.

Fault - A displacement or break in the rock so that it is not continuous.

Gangue - The host rock for the ore.

Grizzly - Separator for ore and rock created by setting heavy iron beams at intervals across the hole covering the ore bin. Large rocks won't go through, and must be broken up.

Gypo - A contract hardrock miner. Paid “days pay” plus a bonus for production.

Hardrock - Ore that can only be mined by blasting, not by the use of handtools.

Headframe - The structure sitting over the shaft that holds the cables, pulleys, and sheaves used to raise and lower the skip in the shaft.

Helmet - Apparatus used by Mine Rescue Personnel to provide oxygen and protect the user from toxic materials.

Hoist - The equipment that lowers and raises everything up and down the shaft.

Hoistman - The operator of the hoist, usually working on the surface.

Jackleg - The air-powered drill used by miners to drill holes for explosives or bolts.

Lagging - Rough timbers, usually 2x10 or 2x12's that are used inside the raise or shaft as supports. Also used in building timber supports.

Level - The elevation of the workings below the shaft, ie. 3700 Level is 3700' below the collar.

Motor - The locomotive, usually battery or electrically powered, used to transport ore via steel track in the mine.

Muck - Ore or waste rock that has been broken up by blasting.

Mucking - The process of removing the muck from the face.

Nipper - A miner's helper, usually a trainee. Brings supplies, puts bolts together, assists.

Ore - A mix of rock and valuable minerals that can be mined at an economic profit.

Portal - The entrance to the mine at the surface.

Raise - A vertical or inclined passageway driven between levels. Used as manways, ventilation passages, for support lines such as pipes and electrical lines, and as ore dumps for transporting ore to lower levels. Can be anywhere up to 300 feet in length.

Round - The rock or ore removed in one blast.

Self-rescuer - A device used by miners to convert deadly carbon monoxide to benign carbon dioxide. Can only be used once, and is usually worn on the miner's belt.

Shaft - A vertical or inclined opening that starts on the surface and goes into the mine. The primary access to the various levels. May be up to 10,000 feet deep.

Shifter - The Shift Boss assigned to a certain area of the mine or to a certain task.

Skip - The cage or compartment the miners ride in.

Slusher - An airpowered scraper used to pull muck from the face back to the ore chute where it can fall down the raise into the ore bin.

Station - The area where the skip unloads at each level of the mine. Usually includes storage areas for supplies and equipment. The miners gather here at the end of the shift to wait for a ride to the surface.

Stope - The area between two levels of the mine where mining occurs. Accessed through a raise.

Tailings or Tails - The waste rock that has been through the mill and had the valuable mineral removed.

Vein - The mineralized zone that is clearly separated from the host rock.

Winze - A shaft that begins underground and goes down from there. Does not go to the surface.