STAY OUT–STAY ALIVE

Mines are Not Playgrounds!
Mines are Everywhere

- There are about 14,000 active mines in the U.S.
- There are as many as 500,000 abandoned mines in the U.S.
MINING: A Vital Part of Our Economy Since the 1800s
The Early Years
Even Children Worked in the Mines
Mining Still Important Today
Advances in Technology
MONSTER TRUCKS!
MINERALS GO A LONG WAY IN A LIFETIME

Every American Born Will Need...

- 1.4 million lbs Stone, Sand, & Gravel
- 60,308 gallons Petroleum
- 55,650 lbs Cement
- 6 1/2 million cu. ft. of natural gas
- 3 1/2 million pounds of minerals, metals, and fuels in a lifetime
ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN ...
MINING CAN BE HAZARDOUS
SOMETIMES...
HAPPY ENDINGS!
MINERS: OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE
Each year, dozens of people are injured or killed in accidents that occur at active and abandoned mines.
DEADLY NUMBERS

- 2006 - 29 deaths
- 2005 - 24 deaths
- 2004 - 35 deaths
- 2003 - 28 deaths
- 2002 - 32 deaths

In the last five years, 148 people have died in recreational activities on mine property.
TYPES OF ACCIDENTS

- Falls into mine shafts, over highwalls
- Overturned equipment
- Drownings
- Asphyxiation
- Electrocution
“Indiana teenager drowns in quarry”  
Chicago Tribune

“Accident on ATV kills Kentucky boy”  
Associated Press

Brothers die while diving in old mine”  
Los Angeles Times
Ohio Man Rescued from Gravel Pit
HIDDEN DANGERS

Stay Away from Abandoned Mine Openings!
ABANDONED MINE OPENING

This mine shaft may be **hundreds** of feet deep!
SHAFT MINE OPENING

VERTICAL DROP

CAN BE VERY DEEP

Stay Away!
Huuuuuuuge Opening!
FENCES DON’T ALWAYS KEEP PEOPLE OUT...
BUT LOOK WHAT AWAITS THE TRESPASSER!

Deep And Dangerous!
THIS MINE IS SEALED, BUT JUST BARELY!
SIGNS: There for a reason

DANGER
ABANDONED
MINE SHAFT
KEEP OUT
Empty Buildings are Dangerous

- They can collapse
- Broken glass is everywhere
- Explosives can be detonated
- There are electrical hazards
SLOPE MINE OPENING

Stay Away!
Look at all the Graffiti
DRIFT MINE OPENING

Stay Away!
Some mine openings are easily seen...

Others may be hidden by plants or rocks!
OPEN MINE SHAFT
HIDDEN MINE OPENING

Where's the mine?
BE WISE! STAY AWAY!

- Ground Around Mines may be Weak
- Vibrations from Walking or Speaking may cause a Cave-in
ROTTEN TIMBERS
BROKEN OR UNSTABLE LADDERS

WONDER WHAT THIS LEADS TO?
How Badly Do You Want to Find Out?
MISFIRED EXPLOSIVES

EXPLOSIVES and BLASTING CAPS

Often Found Around Abandoned Mine Openings
EXPLOSIVES & BLASTING CAPS

- Deteriorate with Age
- Do Not Touch – They can go off!
- Alert the Sheriff’s Department
FROM THIS ...
...... TO THIS!
STANDING POOLS OF WATER
UNDERGROUND TUNNELS

✓ ROTTEN ROOF
✓ SUPPORT BEAMS
✓ DANGEROUS GASES
✓ POISONOUS SNAKES
✓ FLOODED SECTIONS
There are many hidden dangers. What you can't see can hurt or kill you!

U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration www.msha.gov

STAY OUT

STAY ALIVE
UNSTABLE HIGHWALLS
STAY OUT OF ABANDONED QUARRIES

Quarries are not swimming holes. What you can’t see can hurt or kill you!

U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration www.msha.gov
DANGEROUS BODIES OF WATER

Stay Away!

DANGEROUS BODIES OF WATER
NO PLACE FOR SWIMMERS
No Lifeguards on Duty!
Deadly Pennsylvania Quarry

Since 1985 ... 8 drownings!
A MOTHER’S GRIEF
Ideas, but no solutions for quarry

Federal official calls Funkhauser ‘the most dangerous in the country’

By MARK SCOLFORO
Dispatch/Sunday News

Owners of a Peach Bottom Township property where eight people have died since 1985 in a former slate quarry didn’t say much during yesterday’s public forum on the problem swimming hole, but others volunteered their thoughts on how to improve safety there.

Glen Gayski, a partner in Slate Ridge Limited Partnership of Bel Air, Md., owners of the Funkhauser Quarry (historical documents suggest that previous news stories misspelled the quarry’s name as Funkhouser) outside Delta, said they are still working on plans to convert the idyllic property into a wildlife preserve.

Gayski and others with Slate Ridge left without making further comment.

Residents concerned: The 90-minute meeting in the Delta-Cardiff fire hall, held by the federal agency that oversees mine safety and health, brought out about 50 people to share ideas about the quarry, including state and county officials, neighbors, emergency workers, and the parents of two people who drowned in separate quarries on the same day in July.

Doug Farrington, president of the local fire company, said there’s a reason why Funkhauser has seen a string of tragedies, while the other quarries that run along the same ridge haven’t had any problems.

All of the quarries are filled with water, and they are all scenic, he said. But only Funkhauser Quarry offers a convenient lakeside spot and a road that leads right to it.

“If you cover that platform up and they can’t put that beach towel down, I guarantee you they won’t come back,” Farrington said.

The forum was led by Davitt McAteer, assistant secretary for mine safety and health with the U.S. Department of Labor, who wants to find a solution to the prob-

See QUARRY/4
Diving Can Be Deadly

The July 13 Metro article “Taking the Plunge: Fun Meets Fear Head-On at Maryland Swimming Hole” left the impression that it is safe to swim in abandoned quarries. It is not. Every summer children and adults die because they don’t realize the dangers of abandoned quarries and other mine sites.

While the quarry in your story appears to be safe—I have been told it has lifeguards and is actually an established swimming club—already this summer, four young people and one adult have been killed in quarry-related incidents.

A 6-year-old Hagerstown boy died when he fell off a 106-foot quarry wall; a 17-year-old drowned while swimming in an old quarry in Richmond Township, Pa.; another 17-year-old drowned while swimming in an abandoned gravel pit near Rochester, Minn.; a 13-year-old girl drowned while swimming in an old coal pit near Heaven, Okla.; and a 31-year-old man drowned while swimming in an old gravel pit near Camden, Ohio.

Kids are right to worry about hitting their heads when they dive into most quarries. Unlike swimming pools or shallow lakes, water-filled quarries can hide rock ledges, old machinery and other hazards. Their depth can make the water dangerously cold. Swimmers may struggle to climb out of water surrounded by steep rock walls. Rarely is help close by for a swimmer in trouble.

The U.S. Labor Department’s Mine Safety and Health Administration recently joined with some 30 other mining-related organizations in a campaign to inform kids and parents about the dangers of playing at abandoned quarries and other mine sites.

Young people should and do have safe places to swim and enjoy their summer thrills, but abandoned quarries and other mines should not be among them.

—J. Davitt McAteer

The writer is assistant secretary for mine safety and health in the Labor Department’s Mine Safety and Health Administration.
SLUDGE DAM

Water on Top is 3' Deep

Quicksand-Like Sludge Underwater is 8-10' Deep
SIGNS ARE FOR YOUR SAFETY

Keep OUT!
What Part of “No Trespassing”
Don’t You Understand?
What Can You Do to Stay Safe???
If You’re Not Sure, STAY AWAY!
MSHA’s TOLL-FREE HOTLINE

Report Unsafe Access to Active or Abandoned Mines

1-800-746-1554
Listen Carefully to MSHA Inspectors
Inspectors are Trained to Enter Mine Sites – You’re Not!
She May Have a Future in Mining!
Remember…

STAY OUT

AND

STAY ALIVE!