

WINTER ALERT 2004/2005

Get a Hold on Winter Hazards

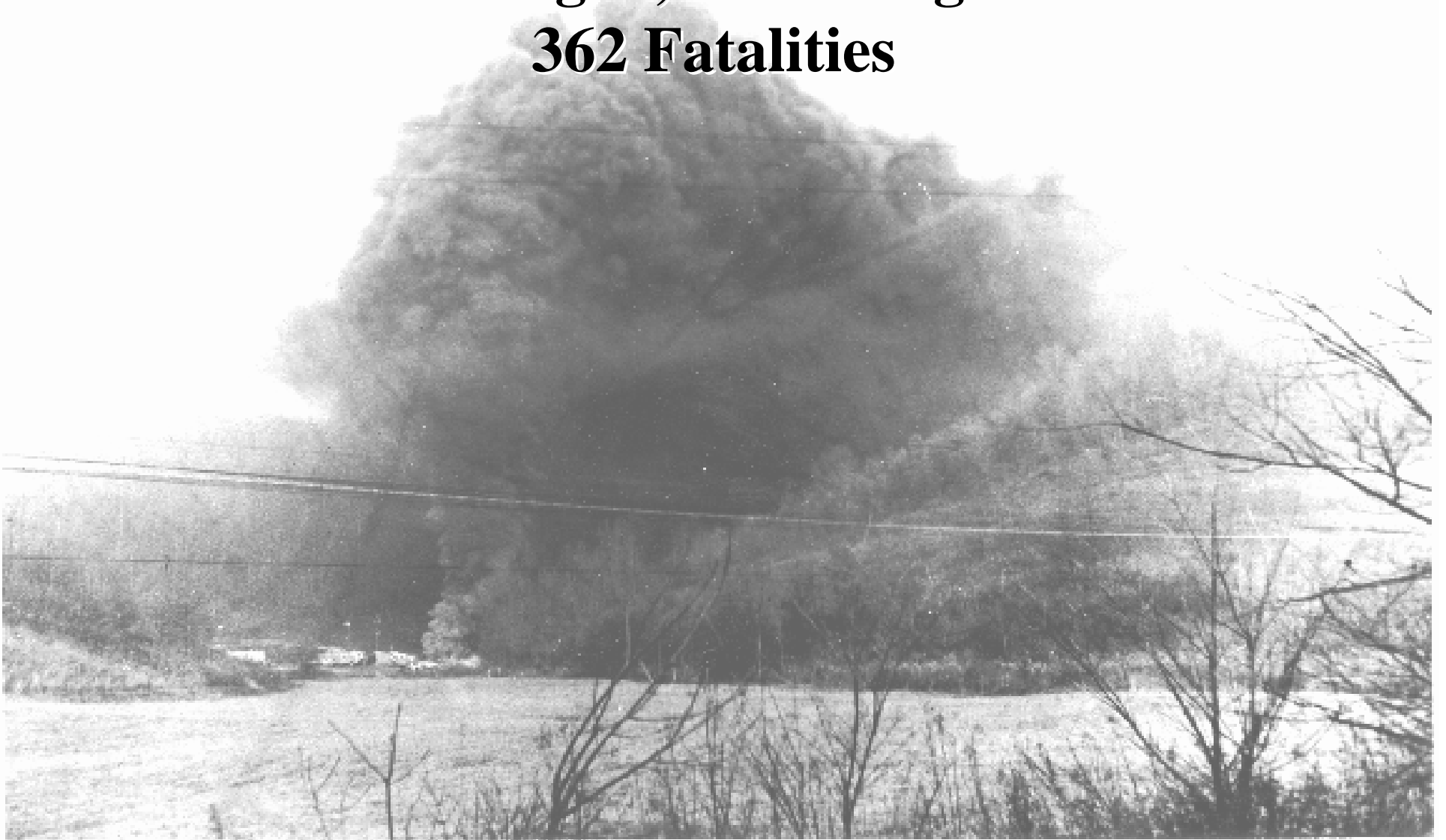
Winter Alert Campaign

- ❑ Annual Program
- ❑ October through March
- ❑ Increase awareness to cold weather hazards
- ❑ Prevention of Mine Explosions and Fires
- ❑ Prevention of Winter Related Hazards at Surface Facilities and Prep Plants

Winter Alert

- ❑ The risk of underground coal mine explosions increases during the winter
- ❑ Low barometric pressures and low humidity coupled with seasonal drying pose an explosion hazard
- ❑ Snow and ice accumulations at surface facilities and prep plants

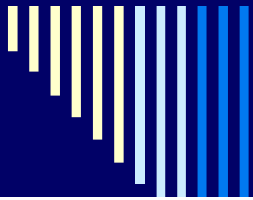
1907
Fairmont Coal Company
Monongah, West Virginia
362 Fatalities



Legislative History

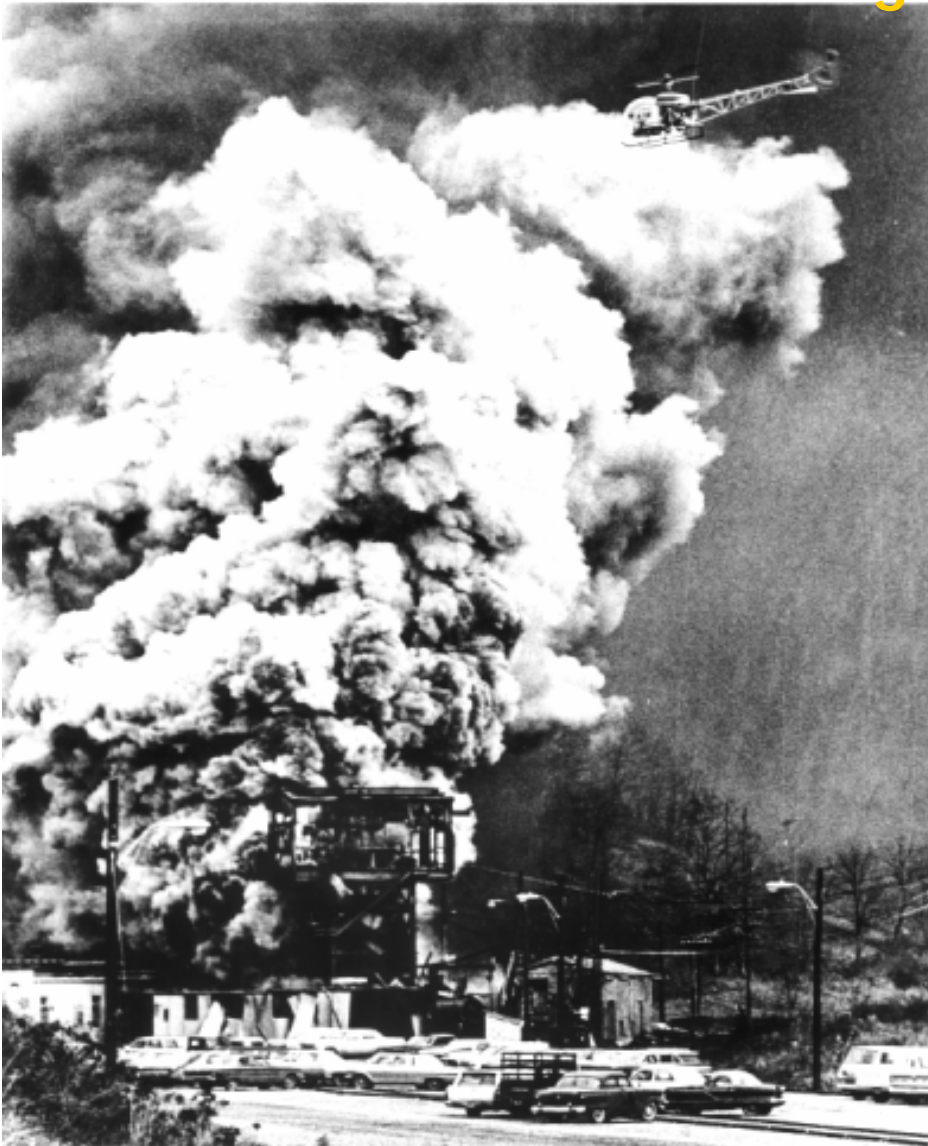
- Coal Act of 1947
 - Formation of first code of federal regulations for mine safety

- Federal Coal Mine Safety Act of 1952
 - Emphasis placed on preventing major disasters



1968

Consol No. 9 Mine Mining Disaster Farmington, West Virginia



At 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 1968, an explosion occurred in the Consol No. 9 Mine at Farmington, West Virginia. There were ninety-nine miners in the mine when the explosion occurred, seventy-eight of whom died as a result of the explosion. Twenty-one miners survived the explosion and escaped to the surface. The mine was among the largest in the United States. Its underground tunnels weaved through the West Virginia hills in a space roughly ten miles by six miles. It worked three production shifts per day, and its crew of 380 men, 320 of whom worked underground, produced 9,500 tons of coal per day. It was a very gassy mine, releasing from 7 to 9 million cubic feet of methane per day.

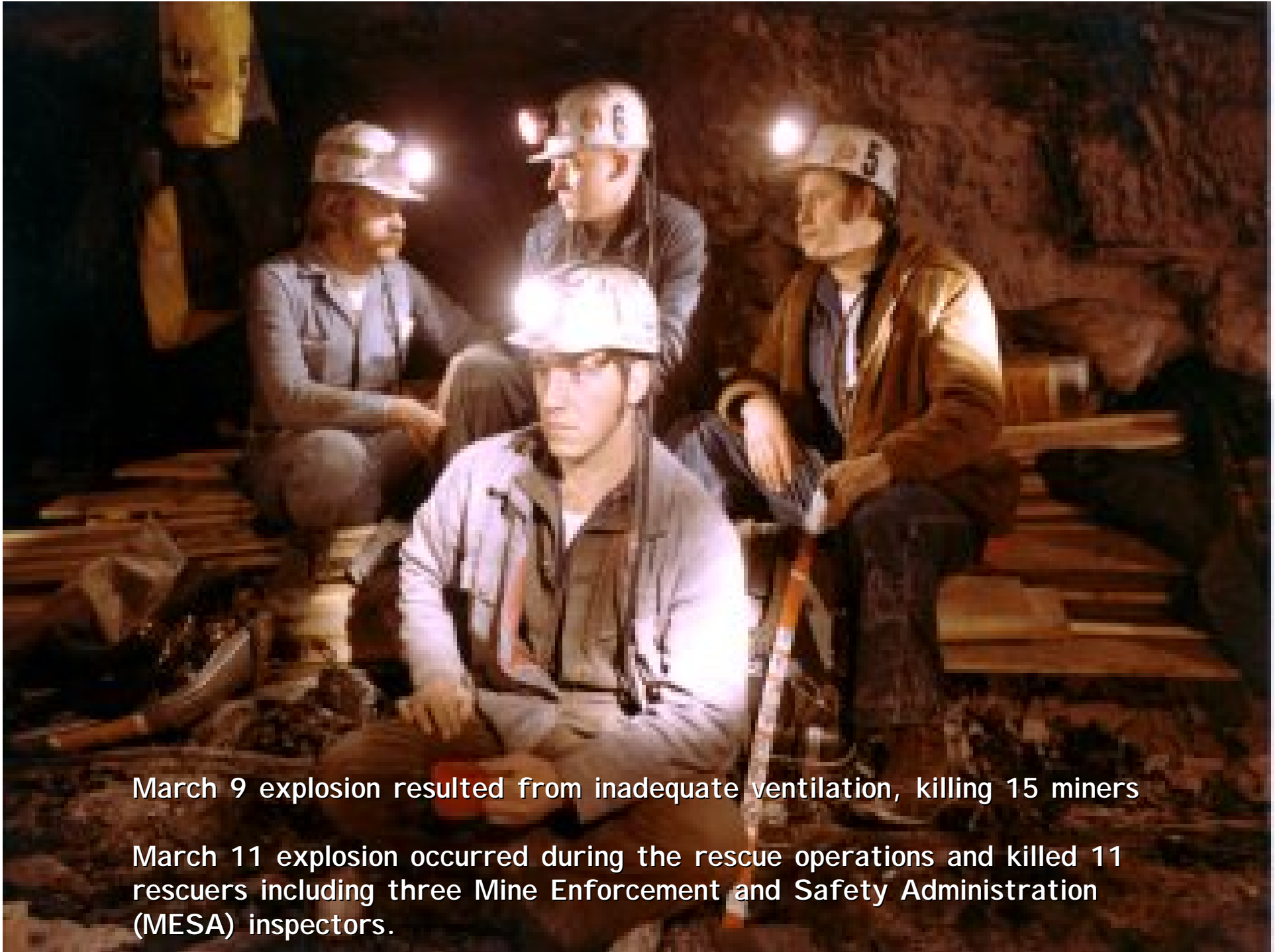
1973

- Bureau of Mines was renamed Mine Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA)
- First federal agency with sole purpose of assuring miners of a safe, healthful working environment

March 9 and 11, 1976

Two separate explosions occurred
at the Scotia Mine, Ovenfork, KY





March 9 explosion resulted from inadequate ventilation, killing 15 miners

March 11 explosion occurred during the rescue operations and killed 11 rescuers including three Mine Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA) inspectors.

1977 Federal Mine Safety and Health Act (Mine Act)

- ❑ Responsibilities were transferred from MESA, Department of Interior to the Department of Labor. Renamed *Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)*
- ❑ Currently governs MSHA activities
- ❑ Increased emphasis on protection of miners' rights

Four Lines of Defense

- Mine Examinations
- Ventilation
- Rock Dusting
- Gas Checks







Underground Precautions

- ❑ Maintain adequate ventilation
- ❑ Make frequent examinations
- ❑ Apply rock dust
- ❑ Conduct frequent gas checks
- ❑ Conduct Escapeway and Evacuation Drills

Surface Hazards

- ❑ Remove snow and ice from roads and walkways
- ❑ Watch for highwall freeze/thaw
- ❑ Ventilate Confines Spaces
- ❑ Beware of vehicle fumes in enclosed cabs

Winter Alert

- 12x24 Underground poster distributed to all underground mines
- 17x24 Surface poster distributed to all surface facilities and prep plants
- Reflective decal for each miners hard hat

Winter Alert

- ❑ Traditional Campaign runs October through March each year
- ❑ All inspectors, specialists, and supervisors will participate
- ❑ All mines will be visited
- ❑ Contacts will be made with all miners

Decal for Hard Hat



Underground Poster



Surface Poster

