

**Confined Space Accidents and Fatalities From [www.safetynews.co.uk](http://www.safetynews.co.uk)  
Courtesy of Burgess and Associates-Hot Zone USA  
[www.hzburgess.com](http://www.hzburgess.com)**

**[www.safetynews.co.uk](http://www.safetynews.co.uk) began compiling accident and fatality incidents in April of 2007. The following are accidents and fatalities involving confined spaces taken from their website. The majority involve work inside, on, or around confined spaces. There are some that may not actually involve confined spaces and are better characterized as machine guarding incidents. Occasionally, there are also some included simply because they were so bizarre. Trenching fatalities are not included. Accidents and fatalities involving mines, quarries, pits, and tunnels are included separately at the end of the document, as they are rarely regulated as confined spaces.**

**April 2014**

St Kitts and Nevis

**Maintenance worker's body found in airport lift shaft**

Police investigation of an accident at Robert L Bradshaw airport has ruled it to have been industrial in respect of the death of a 31-year old maintenance worker whose body was found in a lift shaft where he had been undertaking maintenance work. 1st April 2014

Germany

**2 dead in Ruhr confined space accident**

Two maintenance workers died in a confined space accident yesterday in a 5-metre deep oil tank at premises on Gossing Street in Wickede, North Rhine-Westphalia, both men had climbed into the tank to clean it and were quickly overcome in the oxygen-deficient atmosphere. Fire crews had difficulty accessing the men as the narrowness of the entrance precluded entry with oxygen cylinders. 4th April 2014

Italy

**Two workers drown in Puglia sewage tank**

Two workers of Ecologia Rizzi have died in an accident yesterday at a waste water tank in Molfetta where a lorry was discharging waste from a fish factory. Both victims, aged 50 and 28, are believed to be father and son. Initial speculation of the accident appears to suggest that one of them had lifted the manhole lid of the tank and when it slipped down had attempted to retrieve it. He was overcome by the fumes and an attempted rescue by the second man led to another fatality, both men drowned in the tank. A third man, believed to be related to the victims, also attempted a rescue before being partially overcome, he is recovering in hospital. 9th April 2014

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Thailand

**Rescuer survived confined space rescue attempt**

A 25-year old worker who almost died in an attempt to rescue 4 workers in a confined space accident is expected to be released from Vachira Phuket Hospital this week. In an accident on 26th March 4 workers died in a sewer, the 25-year old who attempted their rescue had oxygen breathing equipment on but had to abandon the rescue attempt as he felt himself becoming ill and collapsed shortly after emerging from the sewer. 7th April 2014

USA

**Worker injured in lift shaft**

During work to remove old radio communications towers at the Colorado Tower construction site in central Austin, Texas, a worker in his 30's has sustained life-threatening injuries after becoming pinned in a lift shaft when the lift activated. 11th April 2014

USA

**Painter killed in fall in Virginia water tower**

A contract painter working at a height of 20 metres inside a water tower operated by Campbell County in Virginia has died in a fall from height accident. Initial investigation of the accident suggested that he was wearing safety equipment but a failure may have occurred with it, contributing to the fall. 11th April 2014

Germany

**Washing machine explosion leaves food plant workers injured**

Four workers sustained severe burns when a washing machine exploded during cleaning work on Monday evening at a food manufacturing plant in Polling-Weidung in Upper Bavaria, the 2 most seriously injured were taken to a burns unit in a Munich hospital. 15th April 2014

Turkey

**Man rescued after 3 days in disused well**

A 40-year old prospector is recovering in hospital from dehydration and injuries after falling into a well in Mihalgazci in Eskisehir, it is speculated that he may have lain as long as 83 hours in the disused well. 18th April 2014

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USA

**Worker died in 20-metre fall at Michigan feed mill**

A fatal accident investigation is ongoing in Ruth, Michigan, into a fall from height death during the dismantling of a feed mill at the Cooperative Elevator Company which saw a 58-year old contractor fall 20 metres through an opening. 18th April 2014

USA

**Youth survives 5-hour flight over Pacific in aircraft wheel well**

A 16-year old youth survived a flight from San Jose Airport to Maui in Hawaii as a stowaway in the wheel well of a Boeing 767, security footage at San Jose showed the boy scaling a fence and accessing Hawaiian Airlines Flight 45. He apparently lost consciousness for part of the 5-hour flight but a health check in Hawaii revealed no other adverse effects from the experience. 24th April 2014

England

**Elderly Lincs worker killed in machine accident**

The HSE has been advised of a fatal accident at Elm Gable on Cowbit Road, Spalding, where a 71-year old man was killed after becoming trapped in machinery. 25th April 2014

Austria

**CO incident at Salzburg power station**

A confined space accident in a chamber at the Barenwerk power station on Glockner Street in Fusch on Saturday left 5 workers exposed to a carbon monoxide atmosphere, 2 of the injured were more severely affected. The station is the oldest in Salzburg, dating from 1924. 28th April 2014

USA

**Worker found dead in industrial dough mixer**

A worker was found dead in an industrial dough mixer he was operating at the Wonton Food Inc premises in Houston, Texas, police are not suspecting foul play and are treating it as an industrial accident. 29th April 2014

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**Accidents and Fatalities Involving Mines, Quarries, Pits, and Tunnels.  
Includes Non-Confined Space Incidents**

Mexico

**Rock fall fatality at silver mine**

A rock fall 230 metres underground at level 431 of the Santa Cecilia El Cubo mine of Endeavour Silver in Guanajuato has left 1 miner dead and 3 others, aged 26,32 and 60, injured. The youngest of the 3 injured workers sustained several fractures but is not in life-threatening condition. The mine will be closed for a couple of days pending a safety audit and safety training. 8th April 2014

Austria

**Accident at MgCO<sub>3</sub> mine**

Two workers aged 23 and 46 sustained leg and rib fractures when a drill platform wagon overturned and they were hit by rubble at the magnesite(MgCO<sub>3</sub>) mine of RHI in Breitenau, Styria, both men were engaged in maintenance work under the 4-metre high platform. 4th April 2014

USA

**2 dead in MEWP accident at Missouri lime mine**

Two mine workers aged 53 and 29 died when the basket of their MEWP(mobile elevating work platform) detached and fell while they were working at chipping loose rock from the wall or roof of a chamber at the Mississippi Lime Company mine some 60 miles south of St Louis. Initial speculation of the accident suggests that a large section of rock fell and detached the platform from its lorry mount. 14th April 2014

India

**Plant operator drowns at open cast mine**

A 49-year old mine worker has drowned after losing control of the dumper vehicle he was driving at the Durgapur opencast mine of Western Coalfields Ltd in Chandrapur, Maharashtra. The vehicle experienced engine failure on a gradient, sliding into a deep pool of water. 11th April 2014

Luxembourg

**Quarry worker badly injured in crush accident**

A quarry worker sustained life-threatening injuries in a crush accident on Saturday at the Ernzen quarry near Mersch where he became pinned between 2 heavy stone

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sections when an attachment failed, he had fractures to both legs and in the shoulder area. 14th April 2014

China

**Miners killed in gas explosion in Yunnan mine**

A methane gas explosion has killed 13 miners and left another missing at the Hongtutian Coal mine, a licensed pit, near Qujing in Yunnan province, 42 of the 56 miners underground at the time of the explosion managed to escape to safety. 22nd April 2014

Turkey

**Roof collapse at Nevsehir mine**

A miner was killed and 6 others were injured following a structural collapse in a coal mine at Gumusyazi in Nevsehir province. 28th April 2014

USA

**Lorry rollover accident at Iowa quarry**

An HGV driver has died in a vehicle rollover accident at River City Stone quarry in Dubuque, Iowa. The lorry of Bruening Rock Products had been depositing asphalt and to facilitate the unloading the trailer had been raised high but when the vehicle moved forward with the trailer raised instability occurred and it rolled over sideways. 30th April 2014