

More than 550

The history of mining in Pictou County is a dark one, with over 550 men, losing their lives to the mining industry in the area. Of these deaths more than two hundred were caused by explosions, the remaining were caused by various things such as being caught in machinery, falling rocks, and many more. These deaths do not include 1806-1866 because records were not kept during this time. On May 8th 1883, a runaway trolley killed 7 men and injured three. While making their way out of the mine, the hoisting cable broke causing gravity to drag the carts back down the tracks crashing when reaching the bottom. Six of the seven died on impact, and one died later of his injuries.

Another tragedy that affected the Pictou County mining was the Drummond Blast that occurred April 2nd, 1914. A boiler exploded at the Drummond Mine in Westville killing seven men. Despite being declared safe that January one of the boilers exploded at 80 lbs of pressure destroying almost all of the boiler house and causing other damage to the property. Unfortunately five of the deaths were not caused directly from the boiler explosion but from a rake which had derailed killing and injuring the men that were there.