

American Caving Accidents

American Caving Accidents is a compendium of accident and safety incident reports from the North American caving community. It is published annually by the [National Speleological Society](#).

Other web sites that may be of interest:

- | [National Cave Rescue Commission \(NCRC\)](#)
- | [NSS Cave Diving Section](#)
- | [National Association for Search and Rescue \(NASAR\)](#).

Accident and Incident Reports

Last update: September 09, 2000

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Incidents listed in red are those for which the file is incomplete. The standard information required for ACA is listed in the style guide.

1999 Incidents				
Date	Cave	Location	Result	Incident Type
January 17	Pettijohns Cave	Georgia	injury, no aid	caver fall
January 23	Diggins Pit	Alabama	aid, no injury	stranded on rope
January 23	Hurricane Ridge Cave	West Virginia	aid, no injury	stranded by flooding
February 4	unspecified cave, Green Mountain	Alabama	aid, no injury	stranded, inadequate equipment
February 7	Paradise Cave	Colorado	injury, no aid	caver fall, cable ladder
February 13	Organ Cave	West Virginia	aid, no injury	lost
February 14	Jennings Cave	Florida	injury and aid	caver fall
February 15	Lava Rise E-3 Cave	Hawaii	injury, no aid	caver fall
March 10	Ellisons Cave	Georgia	fatality	stranded on rope, hypothermia
April 6	Hermit Cave	Oklahoma	fatality	stuck, exhaustion, suffocation
April 16	Pettijohns Cave	Georgia	aid, no injury	lost, stranded
April 21	New River Cave	Virginia	aid, no injury	lost, stranded
April 25	unspecified cave in Smyrna	Tennessee	injury and aid	caver fall
May 9	Cueva Chorreadero	Mexico	aid, no injury	stranded by flooding
May 21	Sinking Cove Cave	Tennessee	aid, no injury	lost, stranded
May 29	Crumbly Cave	Tennessee	injury, no aid	caver fall
May 30	Angeles Cave, Rio Camuy	Puerto Rico	fatality	drowned, flood entrapment
June 6	King Blair Cave	Indiana	aid, no injury	stranded, inadequate equipment

June 12	The Kids Cave	Alabama	no consequence	rockfall
June 16	Perseverance Cave	Vermont	injury, no aid	struck by crowbar while digging
July 4	Bowden Cave	West Virginia	injury and aid	"caver" fall, inexperience, intoxication
July 24	Knox Cave	New York	aid, no injury	stuck, stranded
July 28	Nutty Putty Cave	Utah	aid, no injury	stuck, stranded
July 31	Bowden Cave	West Virginia	aid, no injury	stranded, inadequate equipment
August 22	Sotano del Aire	Mexico	fatality	rockfall
September 19	unnamed pit, Lawrence County	Indiana	injury and aid	"caver" fall, intoxication
September 19	Knox Cave	New York	no consequence	stuck
September 26	Tongue River Cave	Wyoming	injury and aid	caver fall
October 25	unspecified cave near Eagle Rock	Missouri	injury and aid	caver fall, climbing hand-over-hand
October 30	Guffey Cave	Alabama	injury and aid	rockfall
November 6	Tongue River Cave	Wyoming	injury and aid	caver fall
November 7	Philip Moss' Secret Accident Cave	Illinois	injury, no aid	caver fall
November 11	J-4 Cave	Pennsylvania	injury and aid	caver fall
November 13	Clarksville Cave	New York	aid, no injury	stuck, inexperience
November 20	Cave Mountain Cave	West Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall
November 30	Devils Pocket Cave	Alabama	no consequence	rockfall, caver fall
December 4	Liuminary Pit	Tennessee	aid, no injury	stranded in pit
December 11	Fern Cave	Alabama	injury, no aid	caver fall
December 12	Marshall Cave	Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall (?)
December 23	Sistema Tepepa	Mexico	injury and aid	caver fall
December 27	Boy Scout (aka Peace) Cave	Florida	injury and aid	stranded, hypothermia

Cave Diving Accidents and Incidents

1999 Diving Incidents

Date	Cave	Location	Result	Incident Type
February 10	Wakulla Springs	Florida	injury and aid	oxygen toxicity seizure, near

				drowning
February 15	Wakulla Springs	Florida	fatality	hypoxia, drowning
April 18	Jackson Blue Spring	Florida	fatality	siltation, hypoxia, drowning

Caving-Related Incidents

1999 Outside Incidents

Date	Cave	Location	Result	Incident Type
October	Lost Creek Cave	Tennessee	no consequence	murder victim found in cave

2000 Incidents

Date	Cave	Location	Result	Incident Type
unknown	Duffield Cave	Pennsylvania	aid, no injury	stuck, mild hypothermia
January 1	Queen Blair Cave	Indiana	aid, no injury	lost, stranded, intoxication, inexperience
January 9	Emisine Cave	Hawaii	injury and aid	cut by sharp rock
February 12	Indian Grave Point Cave	Tennessee	aid, no injury	stranded, descended pit hand over hand
February 12	Cemetery Pit	Georgia	aid, no injury	difficulty on rope, inexperience
February 16	Jennings Cave	Florida	aid, no injury	stranded in pit, inadequate equipment
February 17	Rattlin Cave	Tennessee	aid, no injury	stranded on rope
February 26	Grassy Cove Saltpeter Cave	Tennessee	aid, no injury	stranded
March 2	Tongue River Cave	Wyoming	injury and aid	caver fall
March 11	Cass Cave	West Virginia	aid, no injury	flood entrapment
March 15	J-4 Cave	Pennsylvania	injury and aid	caver fall
March 16	Birds Drop	Virginia	fatality	caver fall, inadequate equipment
March 19	Let's All Pray to Jesus Cave	British Columbia	injury and aid	rockfall, caver fall
March 24	Doe Mountain Cave	Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall, dislocated shoulder
April 7	Tongue River Cave	Wyoming	injury and aid	caver fall
April 8	Grassy Cove Saltpeter Cave	Tennessee	injury and aid	caver fall
April 9	Thunderhole	Alabama	aid, no injury	stranded in pit, inadequate equipment
April 18	Cueva Chorreadero	Mexico	injury and aid	lost, stranded, hypothermia
April 22	W-Road Cave	Tennessee	aid, no injury	stranded in pit, inadequate equipment

April 23	Mammoth Cave	Kentucky	injury and aid	caver fall, broken ankle
April 29	Climax Cave	Georgia	injury, no aid	histoplasmosis
May 20	0-9 Well	Texas	injury and aid	caver fall, broken ankle
May 27	Belt Cave	Kentucky	aid, no injury	landowner's dog left in cave by cavers
Spring	Cueva Alfredo Jahn	Venezuela	injury, no aid	histoplasmosis
July 1	Big Springs Cave	West Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall, dislocated shoulder
August 5	Nielsons Cave	Utah	no consequence	rockfall
August 12	Clarks Cave	Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall, dislocated shoulder
September 2	Gruta del Palmito	Mexico	injury and aid	caver fall, dislocated shoulder

Cave Diving Accidents and Incidents

2000 Diving Incidents

Date	Cave	Location	Result	Incident Type
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Caving-Related Incidents

2000 Outside Incidents

Date	Cave, Mine, or other Feature	Location	Result	Incident Type
June 15	Lechuguilla Cave	New Mexico Mexico	injury and aid	fell while hiking to cave, broken leg

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