

Accident Investigation Overview

Crandall Canyon Mine Disaster



U.S. Dept. of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration
Utah Commission of Labor

Utah Mine Safety Commission Briefing



Accident Investigators

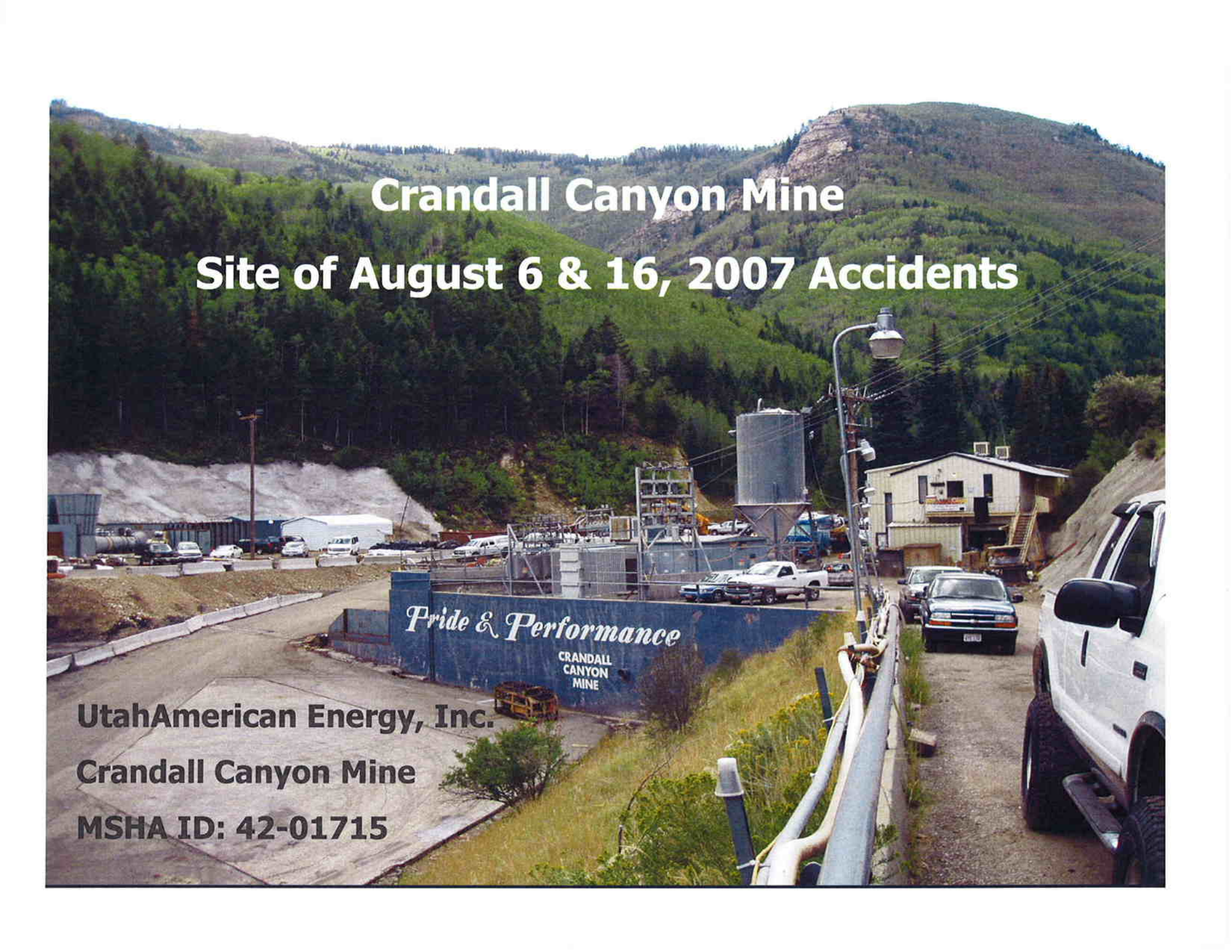
- Richard A. Gates
 - District Manager, District 11, Birmingham, AL
- Michael Gauna, PE
 - Mining Engineer, Roof Control Division, Technical Support, Triadelphia, WV
- Thomas Morley, PE
 - Mining Engineer, Ventilation Division, Technical Support, Triadelphia, WV
- Joseph R. O'Donnell Jr.
 - Supervisory Coal Mine Inspector, District 11, Bessemer, AL
- Gary Smith
 - Supervisory Coal Mine Inspector, District 2, New Stanton, PA
- Timothy Watkins
 - Assistant District Manager, Coal Mine Safety and Health, District 6, Pikeville, KY
- Chris A. Weaver
 - Supervisory Coal Mine Inspector, District 3, Bridgeport, WV
- Joseph C. Zelanko, PE
 - Supervisory Mining Engineer, Roof Control Division, Technical Support, Pittsburgh, PA
- Sherrie Hayashi
 - Labor Commissioner, Labor Commission of Utah

Purpose of Investigation

- Determine root causes of the accident and share findings with the mining community for the purpose of preventing similar occurrences.
- Determine if violations contributed to the accident.
- Use findings as a basis for formulating and evaluating MSHA health and safety standards and policies.

Investigation Procedure

- Thoroughly collect evidence.
 - On-site Inspection
 - Interviews (63 interviews)
 - Documents (35,000 pages, 250 maps, 1200 pictures, and hours of video and audio recordings)
- Review and analyze all relevant information.
- Upon conclusion of the investigation, MSHA will:
 - Brief victims' families on findings.
 - Present findings to mine operator, along with any resulting enforcement actions.
 - Issue a formal report describing its findings.

A photograph of the Crandall Canyon Mine site. In the foreground, a blue metal barrier with the slogan "Pride & Performance" and "CRANDALL CANYON MINE" is visible. To the right, a white SUV is partially shown. In the middle ground, there are several vehicles, including a white pickup truck and a dark sedan, parked near a large industrial building and a tall cylindrical tank. The background features a steep, forested hillside with a rocky peak under a clear sky.

Crandall Canyon Mine

Site of August 6 & 16, 2007 Accidents

UtahAmerican Energy, Inc.

Crandall Canyon Mine

MSHA ID: 42-01715

Outline of Team Activities

- Accident Investigation Team arrived on September 4, 2007.
- Initial Family Briefing was on September 5, 2007.
 - September 13, 2007 (conference call)
 - September 20, 2007 (conference call)
 - September 26, 2007
 - October 11, 2007
 - November 7, 2007
- Initial meeting with mine operator on September 7, 2007.
 - Requested information on 3 separate occasions.
- On-Site Mine Visits – 17 occasions.
 - United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) were recognized as a miners' representative.