

## **Silver Diablo Mine Information**

The Silver Diablo Mine was originally opened in the early 1900's. Two shafts were sunk and the mine was developed on three levels: 200-foot level, 300-foot level, and 500-foot level. The mine was abandoned because of flooding. Big Wallop Mining, LLC has decided to re-open the mine and dewater the mine by driving an access drift on the 500-foot level. Those efforts have not yet solved the water problem.

### **Ventilation:**

The mine is ventilated by a reversible fan located at the collar of shaft #1. The fan is currently forcing air into the mine and the controls for the fan are located at the hoist house. Air travels down the shaft and splits to the 200, 300, and 500 levels. Shaft #2 accesses both the 200 and 300 levels and has an idle (reversible) fan at the collar that we believe is in good working order. Air doors at the collar of shaft #2 are now closed. The controls for the fan on shaft #2 and the air doors at the collar of shaft #2 are located in the hoist house. All air exhausts the drift portal on the 500 level.

There are pneumatic air doors between shaft #1 and shaft #2 on the 200 and 300 levels that can be activated from the hoist house. They are left open during normal operations. There is one ventilation raise between the 200 level and the 300 level and there is one ventilation raise between the 300 level and the 500 level.

### **Shaft #1:**

Shaft #1 is timbered from collar to sump. It is equipped with a 5-man cage and a 5-ton skip located below the cage. The skip travels through scrolls at the head frame and dumps ore and/or muck into a dump pocket at the collar of the shaft. The hoist is manned by a hoist man and receives signals from both bells and radio.

### **Communication:**

The mine uses pager phones. They are located in the hoist house, shaft stations, underground shop, and refuge area. The communication line runs down shaft #1. Surface personnel can also be reached on a portable satellite phone.

### **Electric utilities:**

3-phase 4160-volt A/C power enters the mine via shaft #1 and is transformed into 480 volts on the 500 level. The 500 level is the only level with power. The power is distributed to an underground shop, office, warehouse, sump pump, and refuge area.

### **Refuge area:**

A refuge area was developed on the 500 level to comply with MSHA regulations until a second way out of the mine could be developed. Compressed air, drinking water, and phone communication are brought down shaft #1 and terminate at the refuge chamber. Some additional bottled water, food and compressed O<sub>2</sub> are stored in the refuge chamber.

**Explosives:**

Powder and caps are stored on the 500 level in underground magazines. The mine uses pre-mixed 50-pound bags of Anfo, 30% stick powder for boosters, detonation cord and electric delay blasting caps. Day boxes are used to transport small quantities.

**Equipment Underground:**

The company has one 3-yard Eimco front-end loader, one Getman powder truck with a man-lift, one Young haul truck with a 5-yard load capacity, one Joy single-boom drill, several jack legs and assorted stopers. One surface located Ingersoll-Rand compressor provides compressed air to the underground.

**Geology:**

The ground is very competent but needs some support in cross-cuts and intersections. The 500 level has been recently rock bolted where needed with spit set bolts, chain and mats and no timber was used. The ore body dips to the east at about 10% grade and all past mining tried to stay on contact with the ore reserves. The mine is very wet due to water coursing from East to West below the 300 foot level. The mine was abandoned in 1905 due to uncontrollable water on the 500 level.

**Maps:**

The mine map is current and up-to-date.

**Mining Method:**

Drifts are 10 feet by 10 feet and mined with a single boom jumbo drill. The old method of mining was “cut and fill”. The 200 and 300 levels were mined out and abandoned. The 500 level was developed as what appeared to be a room and pillar type method of ore extraction. A mining method has not yet been determined for the 500 level, but room and pillar will be followed until the ore has been properly blocked out.

**Gas:**

There is no history of any oil wells in the area. This is a non-gassy mine.

**Mine Rescue Capabilities:**

The company is trying to get involved with a cooperative mine rescue association in the area and has been cited by MSHA for not providing mine rescue coverage. They are claiming to be under development at this time. A neighboring mine “The Little Joe Mine” has offered verbal acknowledgment they will provide help if needed, until an agreement can be worked out. They are en-route and will be available when you’re ready to go underground. There are no rescue supplies at this mine.

**Notification:**

All local, state and federal agencies have been notified.