



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

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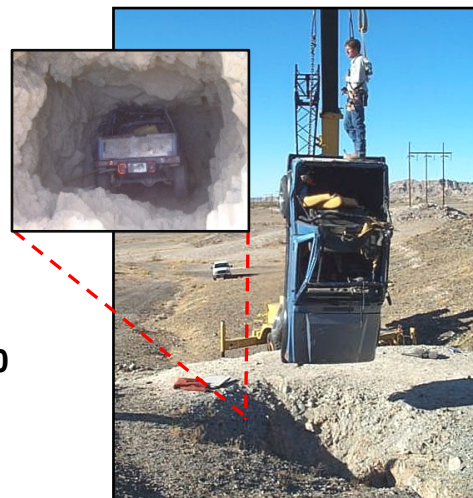
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California's Abandoned Mine Lands Program Fact Sheet The Abandoned Mine Lands Unit

● The Department of Conservation's Abandoned Mine Lands Unit (AMLU) implements a field program to inventory abandoned mines, provide a preliminary assessment of any health and safety hazards observed, and remediate hazardous sites (see our website at www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land).

● The AMLU estimates that approximately **165,000** mine features on more than **47,000** abandoned mine sites exist statewide.*

- More than **39,500** abandoned mines (84% of 47,000 sites) are physical safety hazards. At these sites, more than **62,000** features (38% of 165,000) are hazardous openings.
- An estimated **5,200** abandoned mines (11% of 47,000) are environmental hazards.
- Ownership:
 - **67%** are on federal lands. ■ **31%** are on private lands.
 - **2%** are on state or local lands.



A vehicle is removed from an abandoned mine shaft, Imperial County (photos courtesy of Yuma Fire Department and Bureau of Land Management [BLM]).

* A feature is a single human-made object or disturbance associated with mining, such as a shaft or adit (vertical or horizontal opening), tailings, machinery and facilities. A mine can be comprised of one or more features.

● Every year, someone is hurt or killed in an accident on abandoned mine lands. In the last two years, eight accidents were reported at abandoned mines in California. These accidents resulted in four fatalities, while seven other people were injured and/or required rescuing. Abandoned mines can also be a source of acid mine drainage, mercury contamination, and other environmental impacts. The AMLU's "**Stay Out - Stay Alive!**" message is part of a national public awareness campaign to warn children and adults about the dangers of exploring or playing near abandoned mines. To report an abandoned mine in California, call the AMLU hotline at **1-877-OLD-MINE**.



Vehicle in abandoned mine shaft, Ridgecrest Resource Area, Kern County (photo courtesy of BLM).

● The AMLU has completed many field inventories and abandoned mine remediation projects throughout California (see map, page 2).

- Inventories: Nearly **2,500** sites and more than **16,000** features since 1997.
- Remediations: More than **425** hazardous features in 23 counties since 2002, including more than **265** since 2006.



Photos before and after the AMLU helped to install a cupola over a 1,600-foot-deep abandoned mine next to Highway 395, Kern County.

● The AMLU also convenes the AML Forum, a quarterly venue for the public and agencies to discuss abandoned mine issues (see www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land/amlu_forum.htm).

*The Department of Conservation's mission is to protect Californians and their environment by:
Protecting lives and property from earthquakes and landslides; Ensuring safe mining and oil and gas drilling;
Conserving California's farmland; and Saving energy and resources through recycling.*

(March 2008)



***CALIFORNIA ABANDONED MINES
POTENTIAL, INVENTORIED AND REMEDIATED
MINE FEATURE LOCATIONS***

- ★ Physical Hazard Remediations
- ▲ AML Program Inventoried Features
- USGS Mapped Mine Features*

* Based on USGS 7.5 minute topographical map mine symbols



0 50 100 150 200 Miles