

American Caving Accidents

1998 Accident and Incident Reports on File

41 reports on file

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The current file of reports for 1998 includes the incidents listed below. These reports were published in the most recent issue of American Caving Accidents in April 2000. If you have information about an incident which is not listed here, please contact the ACA Editor, Bill Putnam, at putnam@scci.org or use the [online accident report](#) form to report it.

Incidents listed in *red italics* were not published in the 1996-1998 issue of ACA and will appear in the 1999 issue under "Previously Unreported Incidents."

1998 Incidents				
Date	Cave	Location	Result	Incident Type
15 January	Cueva de Horror	Mexico	no consequence	bad air
24 January	Saltpeter Cave	Kentucky	fatality	heart attack in cave
31 January	Tom Pack Cave	Tennessee	injury and aid	caver fall
14 February	My Cave	West Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall
16 February	Small Wonder Cave	New York	no consequence	bear encounter in cave
28 February	Skagnasty Cave	Tennessee	aid, no injury	illness
14 March	Clarksville Cave	New York	injury and aid	rockfall
11 April	unnamed cave	Indiana	injury and aid	caver fall, inadequate equipment
25 April	Hanors Cave	New York	aid, no injury	stranded, difficulty on rope
26 April	Hidden River Cave	Kentucky	aid, no injury	illness, passed out in cave
3 May	Colisimo Cave	Pennsylvania	injury, no aid	rabies exposure from bat contact
19 May	Morris Cave	Vermont	no consequence	entrapment
23 May	Cumberland Caverns	Tennessee	aid, no injury	illness
25 May	Cave Hill Cave	Illinois	aid, no injury	lost, stranded, inadequate equipment
May	Hughes Cave	Alabama	aid, no injury	lost
13 June	Bowden Cave	West Virginia	no consequence	flooding, brief entrapment
11 July	Bartons Cave	Pennsylvania	injury and aid	caver fall
18 July	Keyhole Cave	New York	injury and aid	stuck in crevice
18 July	Moaning Cavern	California	injury and aid	lost control of rappel
23 July	Dislocation Cave	Alaska	injury and aid	caver fall
26 July	Blue Spring Cave	Tennessee	no consequence	caver fall
2 August	Big Four Ice Caves	Washington	fatality	ice fall
8 August	Surprise Cave	New York	no consequence	entrapment, key broke off in lock
11 August	Coons Cave	Indiana	aid, no injury	Stranded in pit, inadequate equipment
5 September	Sharps Cave	West Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall
3 October	Cassell Cave	West Virginia	aid, no injury	stranded, inadequate equipment
3 October	J-4 Cave	Pennsylvania	injury and aid	caver fall
12 October	Bowden Cave	West Virginia	aid, no injury	lost

13 October	Neversink	Alabama	no consequence	tree fell into pit while cavers on rope
13 October	unnamed sinkhole	Florida	aid, no injury	stranded, fell in sinkhole
19 October	Tongue River Cave	Wyoming	injury and aid	caver fall
24 October	Pinnacles Cave	Nevada	aid, no injury	stranded on ladder, inexperience
25 October	Whitings Neck Cave	West Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall
28 October	Spring Hill Saltpeter Cave	Tennessee	fatality	caver fall, inadequate equipment
30 October	J-4 Cave	Pennsylvania	injury and aid	caver fall
31 October	Pyeatts Cave	Arizona	aid, no injury	illness, exhaustion
October	Gabinarraca Cave	Costa Rica	injury, no aid	illness, histoplasmosis
5 November	3-D Maze Cave	Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall
21 November	Cumberland Caverns	Tennessee	fatality	illness, heart attack in cave
23 November	Torpedo Tube Cave	New York	no consequence	animal trap in cave entrance
28 December	Peppersauce Cave	Arizona	injury and aid	caver fall

Cave Diving Accidents and Incidents

1998 Diving Incidents

Date	Cave	Location	Result	Incident Type
12 December	Wakulla Springs	Florida	injury, aid	decompression sickness

Caving-Related Outside Incidents

1998 Outside Incidents

Date	Cave	Location	Result	Incident Type
27 June	Windy Mouth Cave	West Virginia	fatality	drowned while hiking back from cave
February	unspecified cave	Pennsylvania	no consequence	body found in cave
3 March	unnamed sea cave	California	fatality	swept into sea cave and drowned
17 March	unspecified cave	Tennessee	no consequence	body found in cave
22 August	unspecified cave	Tennessee	injury and aid	fell off ATV riding back from cave
13 October	unspecified cave	Vermont	no consequence	body found in cave

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