

but the roadway obstructed by heavy falls, the latter would help to make it passable and expedite the work of recovery.

Extra electric lamps should be taken by some members of the party for use in case any of the other lamps get damaged.

A relay of men with the apparatus all ready for finally connecting should be in attendance near the pit head, to save time in the event of a sudden call or signal from below ground for further assistance. A further number of men, sufficient to make up two more parties, should also be at hand ready to put on the apparatus immediately the first relay is called upon. Each of these parties would thus in their turn act as chief exploration party.

It must be impressed on the men that whilst wearing the apparatus they must not be carried away with the spirit of emulation or work to their utmost strength, but must keep well within the bounds of their own capabilities and those of the apparatus. They will learn by experience when and how much food to take before going on duty.*

* Had there been sufficient relays of men equipped with portable breathing apparatus at the Hamstead Colliery disaster more satisfactory results would have been obtained, and probably the life which was lost might have been saved. Seven men with the apparatus were trying to do the work of thirty.



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