

and to take care of the men under his charge. The other men should share all hard work equally, in order that the oxygen and chemicals of no one apparatus may be exhausted much earlier than the rest. As soon as any member of the party has used about half his supply of oxygen, the whole party must consult, or indicate by special signs, as to the advisability of returning to a place of safety. Should any man's apparatus not be working satisfactorily he must return immediately to a place of safety accompanied by at least one other man. If the party should by this means be reduced to less than four, risk is involved, and the whole party should return.

The same precautions as mentioned in Rule 16 (c)* as to leaving two men at the pit bottom to give signals, etc., must be strictly observed when men are using life-saving apparatus.

Each party should carry two or three pocket thermometers for the reasons already stated, also a light sheet iron stretcher provided with sledge runners (these runners have been found useful in passing over falls). Not only will it be found of service for carrying men, but also for transporting restoratives, food, brattice cloth, tools, etc.

During preliminary explorations, the party should not be away from safety for more than about one hour; this time may afterwards be extended, especially if the party is in telephonic communication with the base of operations.

As soon as possible, stations or bases should be established in the pit, where the ventilation has been restored, from which extended explorations may be made, and at which the apparatus can be re-charged, thus saving the time, oxygen and chemicals which would otherwise be necessary to enable the men to return to the surface. These stations should be in telephonic communication with the pit bank.

Parties wearing apparatus will act chiefly as scouts advancing ahead of the ventilation to prove the existence of and to deal with fires. Their principal and foremost duty will be, however, to relieve survivors cut off from the pit by afterdamp. When certain of the roadways have been made passable for travelling without apparatus, the most convenient arrangement would be to divide each exploration party into men with and without the apparatus; the former would lead and inspire confidence in the latter, as they would be able to rescue them promptly should they be overcome by afterdamp, whilst, if the air is breathable

* Rule 16—Two men must always be left at the pit bottom, whenever exploration parties are at work, to give the necessary signals in case the party return in an exhausted condition, or when an immediate ascent is necessary, etc.