

American Caving Accidents

1997 Accident and Incident Reports on File

47 reports on file

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The current file of reports for 1997 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."

1997 Incidents				
Date	Cave	Location	Result	Incident Type
1 January	Grassy Cove Saltpeter Cave	Tennessee	injury and aid	caver fall
18 January	Ogle Cave	New Mexico	aid, no injury	stranded, difficulty on rope
13 February	Sunny Jims Cave	California	aid, no injury	stranded, washed into sea cave
14 February	Cheva Cheve	Mexico	injury and aid	rockfall entrapment, caver fall
15 February	Pettijohns Cave	Georgia	injury and aid	caver fall
17 February	Secret Pit	Alabama	no consequence	rockfall
20 February	Battlefield Pit	Tennessee	injury and aid	caver fall
22 February	Norman Cave	West Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall
2 March	Lava tube at Pisgah Crater	California	no consequence	illegal drug lab found in cave
8 March	New River Cave	Virginia	fatality	caver fall
9 March	Buckners Cave	Indiana	injury and aid	caver fall
31 March	Buckners Cave	Indiana	aid, no injury	lost, stranded, inadequate equipment
March	Ellisons Cave	Georgia	injury, no aid	caver fall, rope failure
25 April	Pinnacles Cave	California	aid, no injury	stranded, difficulty on rappel
2 May	Glow Worm Cave	Tennessee	aid, no injury	flood entrapment
5 May	Arnold Hollow Cave	Arkansas	aid, no injury	stranded by tight spot
14 May	Bull Cave	Tennessee	aid, no injury	stranded, inadequate equipment
31 May	McBrides Cave	Alabama	injury and aid	caver fall, flood entrapment
31 May	McClungs Cave	West Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall
31 May	Spring Valley Cave	Minnesota	injury, no aid	caver fall
May	Schmitt Farm Cave	Iowa	injury and aid	caver fall, inadequate equipment
May	unspecified cave	Kentucky	no consequence	difficulty on rope, equipment problem
Spring 1997	unspecified Bath County cave	Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall
7 June	Big Bone Cave	Tennessee	injury and aid	caver fall
7 June	Lawrence Welk Cave	California	injury and aid	caver fall
4 July	Lilburn Cave	California	aid, no injury	difficulty on cable ladder
10 July	Wind-Ice Cave	Wyoming	injury and aid	caver fall
10 July	James Cave	Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall

12 July	Hellhole	West Virginia	injury and aid	caver fall
16 July	Laurel Caverns	Pennsylvania	injury and aid	struck head
19 July	Sotano de Tapanco	Mexico	injury, no aid	rockfall
July	Boulder Cave	Vermont	no consequence	rockfall
24 August	Garrison Cave #2	Missouri	aid, no injury	lost, stranded
30 August	Stephens Gap Pit	Alabama	fatality	caver fall, rappelled off end of rope
August	Anhumas Abismo	Brazil	injury and aid	caver fall, lost control of rappel
Summer	Bowdern Cave	West Virginia	aid, no injury	lost, inexperience
13 September	Sharps Cave	West Virginia	aid, no injury	lost, inexperience
26 October	J-4 Cave	Pennsylvania	injury and aid	caver fall
1 November	Fern Cave	Alabama	aid, no injury	difficulty on rope
1 November	Illinois Caverns	Illinois	injury and aid	caver fall
2 November	Fern Cave	Alabama	fatality	caver fall, lost control of rappell
22 November	Laurel Caverns	Pennsylvania	injur and aid	caver fall
22 November	Reeves Cave	Indiana	fatality	illness, heart attack in cave
14 December	unidentified sinkhole	Canada	injury and aid	caver fall
20 December	Morrells Cave	Tennessee	injury, no aid	caver fall
22 December	Crossroads Cave	Virginia	aid, no injury	lost, stranded, inadequate equipment
23 December	Freemans Pit	Indiana	injury and aid	caver fall, rappelled off end of rope

Cave Diving Accidents and Incidents

1997 Diving Incidents

Date	Cave	Location	Result	Incident Type
17 August	Four Sharks Blue Hole	Bahamas	fatality	narcosis
27 December	Jackson Blue Spring	Florida	fatality	embolism

Caving-Related Outside Incidents

1997 Outside Incidents

Date	Cave	Location	Result	Incident Type
3 November	unidentified cave	Indiana	no consequence	murder victim found in cave
21 December	Little Scott Cave	Missouri	no consequence	bad air caused by bonfire in cave

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