

## China Detains Mine Officials After Deadliest Coal Mine Disaster Since 2009 Kills 82 in Shanxi

Rescue operations completed as investigation intensifies and safety scrutiny increases nationwide.

**BEIJING, China** — Chinese authorities have detained multiple mine officials after a catastrophic underground coal mine explosion at the Taohua Qianxi Coal Mine in Shanxi Province killed 82 workers on May 26, 2026, making it the deadliest coal mine disaster in the country since 2009, state media reported.

The explosion occurred at around 12:45 p.m. local time in a roadway at a depth of approximately 700 meters, according to the Shanxi Provincial Emergency Management Department. Another 10 workers were injured, and all have been hospitalized. Their conditions are reported to be stable.

President Xi Jinping has called for “all-out efforts” to rescue the injured, support affected families, and investigate the cause of the explosion thoroughly.

A total of 475 rescue personnel and 97 vehicles were deployed. By the morning of May 27, all miners had been accounted for. Rescue work at the site has been completed.

State broadcaster CCTV reported that the mine’s general manager, deputy general manager, and head of safety operations have been taken into custody. Authorities have launched a full investigation and nationwide safety inspections.

China’s State Council has ordered a tougher crackdown on illegal production, unsafe operations, and failure to implement safety standards in the coal industry.



Rescue personnel enter the Taohua Qianxi Coal Mine in Shanxi Province on May 26, 2026, following a major underground explosion that killed 82 workers. (Photo: China Daily via REUTERS)



Rescue teams carry an injured miner from the mine site. Ten workers were injured in the blast, and all are in stable condition. (Photo: Xinhua)



Miners at the site after the explosion. China has launched nationwide safety inspections across coal mines. (Photo: AP)

### AT A GLANCE

- Date:** May 27, 2026
- Time:** 12:45 p.m. CST (May 26)
- Location:** Taohua Qianxi Coal Mine, Shanxi Province, China
- Incident:** Underground explosion
- Fatalities:** 82 confirmed
- Injured:** 10 (all in stable condition)
- Officials Detained:** Mine general manager, deputy general manager, and head of safety operations
- Investigation:** Ongoing
- Action:** Nationwide safety inspections ordered

“ We must learn the painful lesson, strengthen safety management from the source, and resolutely prevent and curb major accidents.”  
— President Xi Jinping

### ABOUT THE TAOHUA QIANXI COAL MINE

The Taohua Qianxi Coal Mine is located in Linfen City, Shanxi Province, a major coal-producing region in China. The mine has an annual production capacity of about 4.5 million tonnes and employs thousands of workers.



### CHINA'S COAL MINE SAFETY RECORD

China has made progress in reducing coal mine accidents over the past decade. However, experts warn that illegal operations and lax oversight continue to pose serious risks. Authorities have pledged to strengthen regulation and ensure accountability.



### PRAYER FOCUS

Let us pray for the families who have lost loved ones, for the injured to recover, and for true reform that will value human life above all else.

“Rescue those who are being led away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.”  
— Proverbs 24:11

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Pray for the victims and their families.
- Support organizations advocating for miners’ safety and rights.
- Stay informed and share updates.
- Encourage leaders to prioritize worker safety and accountability.

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