

54 rescued after Australian mine fire

by UPI

KALGOORLIE, Australia -- An underground fire Wednesday trapped 54 gold miners in Western Australia but all of them were rescued unharmed. A truck in the shaft reported caught fire around 9 a.m., filling the cavern with smoke, the Australian Broadcasting Corp., reported. The fire was extinguished and the miners retreated to enclosed and sealed safety rooms in the Kanowna Belle gold mine, officials with the Canadian Barrick Gold Corp., said. It took rescue teams several hours to bring the miners out in groups, the report said. The district's Department of Consumer and Employment Protection announced it would investigate the cause of the fire and the workers' response to it at the mine, 12 miles northeast of Kalgoorlie.

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