

Carbon area residents, Utahns face increased skin cancer risks

By KAREN BASSO
Staff reporter

Utahns are more prone to skin cancer than Americans residing at different locations in the United States.

The increased susceptibility is due, in part, to the state's high altitude, the large number of sunny days and the ready access to outdoor activities, according to the Utah Cancer Action Network.

Because of this increased risk, the cancer network which is comprised of more than 70 organizations has launched a new campaign to inform parents to protect their skin and their children's from the sun all year round.

"The more time that is spent in the sun's ultraviolet rays, the

more likely they are to develop skin cancer.

"Most Utahns are Caucasian, have fair skin and tend to burn easily, but people of all races should limit their time in the sun as well," stated Huntsman Cancer Institute professor of dermatology, Dr. Glen Bowen.

According to the American Cancer Society, skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in Utah and in the U.S. In 2003, an estimated 54,200 persons in the nation will be diagnosed with melanoma, the most serious kind of skin cancer.

Also, about 7,600 people will die in the U.S. this year from melanoma alone explained the cancer society.

"One serious sunburn with blisters in childhood can increase the risk of skin cancer

by 78 percent," advised Utah Department of Health skin cancer coordinator, Janet Heins. "That is why we are urging parents to teach their children to cover-up and use sunscreen daily. We have a lot of work to do because about 70 percent of Utahns do not routinely use sunscreen."

To better understand the consequences of not regularly protecting ones skin from the sun, the American Cancer Society explains that each year about 7,800 Americans will die from melanoma.

The form of cancer begins in melanocytes - the skin cells that produce the skin coloring or protective pigment called melanin. The pigments help to protect the deeper layers of the

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taking place along the Wasatch Front.

While a lot of the fresh water in Utah lies on the surface, there is also water that lies below, that residents cannot see without technology, and according to water officials, is by far the most abundant source of all.

Ground water is found throughout Utah, but in many places it is not in the amount or of the type that can be extracted in a reasonable or cost effective way.

In general, spring water was the first source of ground water to be developed indicated experts.

This is because a spring comes from an aquifer that basically has a hole in the top of it and is running over as more water is added to it's base.

There are literally thousands of springs in Utah, with the major ones usually occurring near mountain ranges.

As with surface flow streams, springs are measured
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Emery deputy dies in mishap

By RICHARD SHAW
Staff reporter

An early morning collision south of Castle Dale on Utah State Road 10 claimed the life of an Emery County sheriff's deputy May 27.

According to the Utah Highway Patrol, Deputy Jeremiah K. Johnson, age 30 of Castle Dale, was headed northbound on SR-10 when the law enforcement vehicle he was driving reportedly crossed the center line of the highway at approximately milepost 36.

Northbound truck driver

Jeffery Scott Olson, age 46 of Price, was pulling a coal haul trailer with a Kenworth tractor when the fatal accident occurred at a sharp curve on SR-10 south of Castle Dale.

Johnson's patrol vehicle purportedly entered the opposite travel lane and the 1999 Dodge Durango collided almost head on with the coal-haul truck.

Conducted by UHP Trooper Dave Brinkerhoff, the preliminary investigation into the incident indicated that excessive speed and impairments were apparently not contributing factors in the fatal collision.

Johnson was apparently returning to Castle Dale after completing a shift in Green River when the accident occurred. The deputy and trucker were wearing safety restraints at the time of the collision. Olson suffered minor injuries in the mishap.

The accident and investigation at the scene closed the highway to traffic for five hours. Motorists traveling in both directions on SR-10 were detoured through Orangeville on Highway 29. The road connects to Highway 57, a local coal-haul transportation route.

Company addresses factors influencing decision to idle Skyline

By RICHARD SHAW
Staff reporter

On Tuesday, Arch Coal announced that Canyon Fuel will idle Skyline mine by second quarter 2004.

The May 27 press release indicated the decision was due to a weak Utah coal market.

Skyline employs approximately 215 Carbon, Emery and Sanpete County residents. The mine produced about 3.5 million tons of coal last year.

"While we regret the need for this action, we support Canyon Fuel's decision to idle the Skyline mine," noted Steven Leer, Arch president and chief executive officer. "With production in the southern portion of the mine nearing an end, Canyon Fuel is faced with initiating expensive development work in a new reserve area to the north in order to keep the mine operational. Without a solid portfolio of base load contracts and evidence of an improving Utah coal market, we simply can not justify such an investment at this time."

Arch's corporate headquarters in St. Louis, Mo., confirmed that Skyline was being temporarily shut down for market reasons rather than due to the water problem at the underground coal production operation.

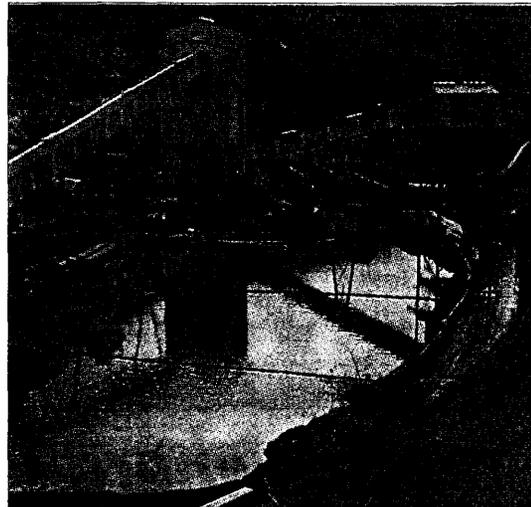
"We have been encountering water in the current reserve area, but we have been managing it," pointed out Deck Stone, Arch vice president of investor relations and public affairs.

"We often encounter water in deep mines like this so that is nothing new. But where we are presently mining toward the north, we have found very little water so that isn't really a factor in the decision," added the Arch Coal vice president.

One of Skyline's two continuous miners ceased operation earlier in the month. The second is expected to be idled during third quarter 2003.

The longwall should finish mining the remaining panels in second quarter 2004 and the company will idle the underground operation.

Layoffs will occur at the



RICHARD SHAW, SUN ADVOCATE

Skyline mine production will slow, then stop after the middle of next year. Arch Coal announced Tuesday that the mine will be idled, with operations halted in second quarter 2004. Canyon Fuel based the work stoppage decision on a weakness in the Utah coal market, according to company officials.

mine near Scofield in phases, according to the Arch representatives. The specific timing has yet to be determined.

"We join Canyon Fuel in commending the Skyline workforce for operating in a safe, productive and environmentally responsible manner for many years," said Leer. "We have a solid base of reserves at Skyline and expect the mine to resume production as a valuable and competitive operation at some point in the future."

Skyline has a reserve base of about 50 million tons of low sulfur coal.

Canyon Fuel operates two other underground longwall mines in Utah - Sufco in Sevier County and Dugout Canyon in Carbon County. Dugout employs approximately 155 workers and produces more than three million tons annually.

"We have been pumping water out of the Sufco mine for a very long time, so that is not anything new to us," explained Stone. "It just takes a lot of capital to open up new areas and this whole decision is market driven."

"We have not been able to sign any new commitments for

the new reserve area," added the vice president.

Canyon Fuel markets the output of the three mines to regional utilities using coal to generate electricity as well as to a number of large industrial facilities in Utah, Nevada and California.

The company will attempt to find jobs for as many Skyline employee. as possible, but open positions are limited. Affected workers will receive a competitive severance package.

Arch is the nation's second largest coal producer, with subsidiaries in Utah, West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, Wyoming and Colorado. The company provides fuel for approximately six percent of the electricity generated in the United States.

"As other coal reserves in the region are depleted, we expect the Skyline reserves to become increasingly strategic," pointed out Leer. "However, the mine could remain idle for a period of several years before resuming operation. The timing of its reopening will depend entirely on the market."

Ann Ahrens
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