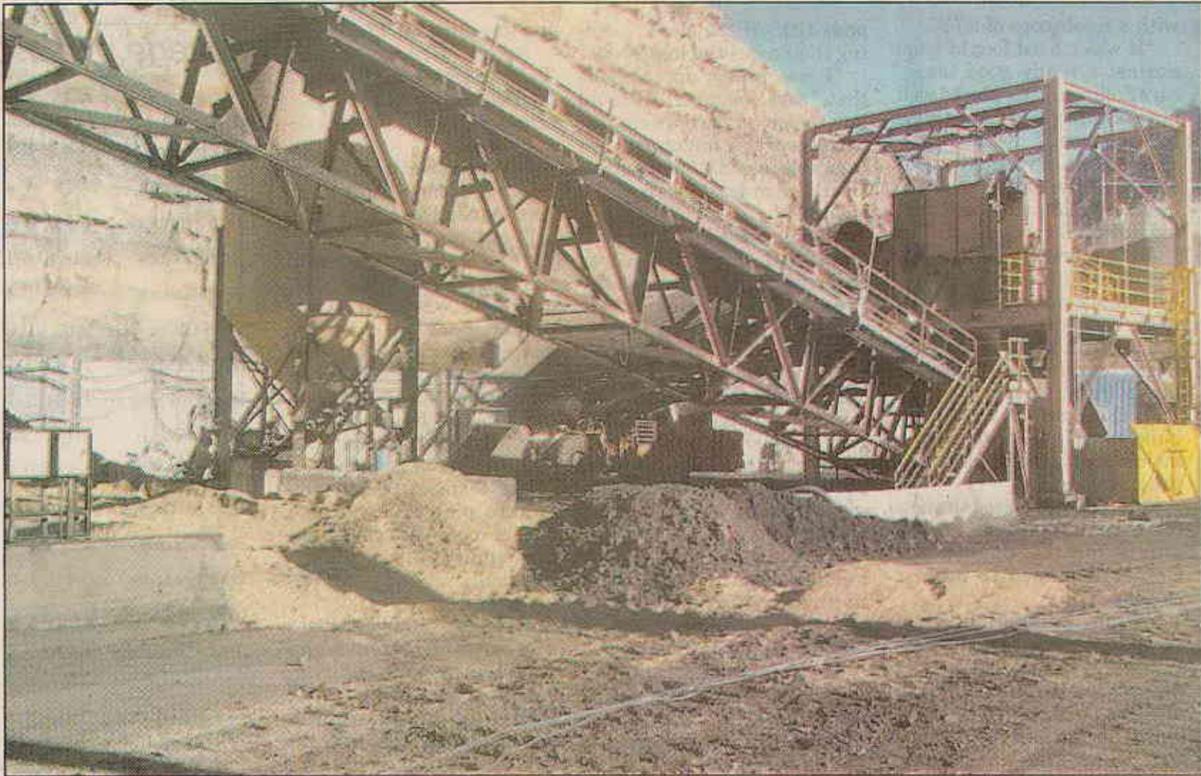
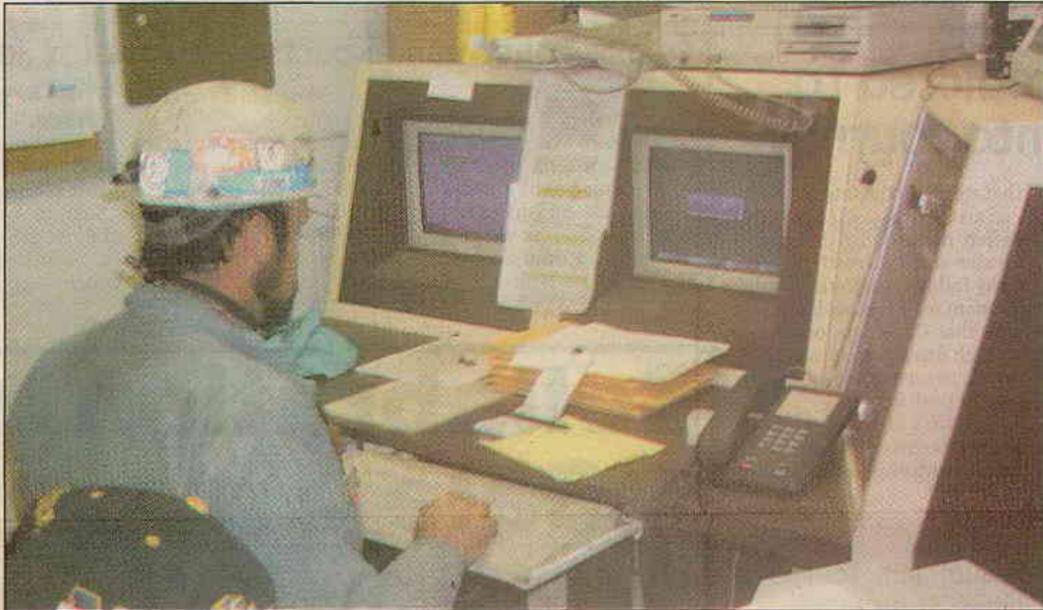


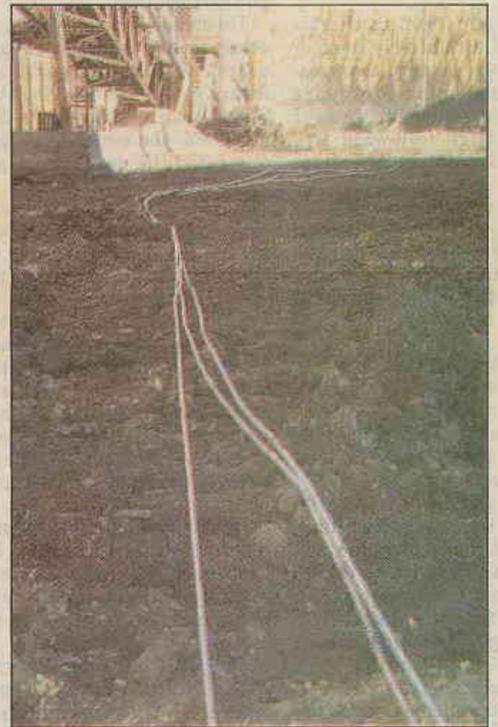
Portals sealed at Willow Creek



Above: Piles of dirt are still present in front of the portals that were closed last Thanksgiving day. The dirt was placed inside the portal entryways and then pushed up against the openings to make the seal. This was accomplished in dense smoke with the help of mine rescue teams directing the equipment.



Below: Plastic tubes run the perimeter of the portals and fan entry back to the command centers that are set up to monitor the atmosphere inside the mine.



Above: Tim McFarland sits at the conspec computer while the computer recreates the day of November 25 and the events that took place prior to the fire. The computer will generate graphs and charts to help explain what happened.

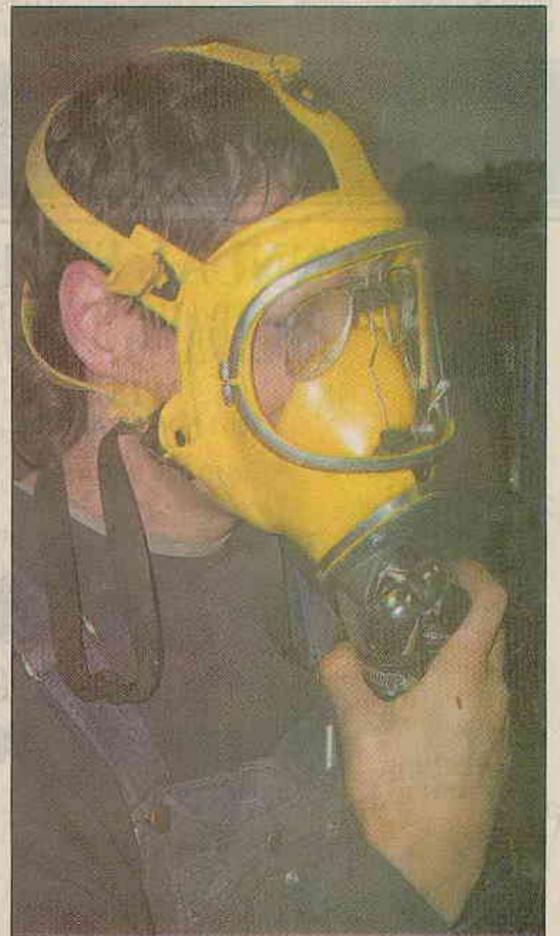


Right: Mine representative Mike Dmitrich shows the readout on the battery pack equipped with the Personal Emergency Device system. This device was used to contact the miners with a message to evacuate the mine.



This is the brattice covering over the fan intake. It is bulged outward as the air inside of the mine escapes. Crews inspect the escaping air continually. The air is comprised of

less and less smoke as well as oxygen and greater amounts of carbon dioxide and methane. This is a good sign as crews prepare to enter back into the mine hopefully within two weeks.



Tad Fausett reviews his rescue device. The 38 pound pack has enough oxygen for four hours of use. Mine rescue teams used these packs to help direct heavy equipment when the portals were being sealed.