

Mining Facts in Arizona:

- Arizona is the number one provider of copper in America
- 66% of America's copper comes from Arizona
- 2,000 people are employed in mining in Arizona
- Mining contributes more than \$4 billion to the state's economy

Abandoned Mine Facts:

- 1,525 known and unsecured abandoned copper, construction material, and other mines in Arizona
- 592 known and unsecured abandoned uranium mines in Arizona
- Estimated number of unknown abandoned mines in Arizona: 10,000-50,000
- Prior to 2008, Arizona had the 4th highest abandoned mine death rate in the Nation.
 - The current mine inspector hasn't reported any deaths to MSHA since 2010
- Between 1998-2008 there were 12 reported deaths in abandoned mines in Arizona
- It costs an estimated \$2,500 to secure an abandoned mine
- Funding to secure abandoned mines comes from fines for violations that are levied by the mine inspector's office

Uranium Mining Facts:

- 8,600 uranium mining claims in Arizona
 - Majority are in the Colorado River watershed, around the Grand Canyon
- 73% of Arizonans oppose uranium mining in Arizona
- Uranium mining is dangerous to miners
 - Uranium miners are 6 times more likely to die of lung cancer than a non miner
 - The yellow dust that causes lung cancer can also blow over communities, increasing lung cancer for nearby residents.
 - Radiation can remain in the bones of miners for 20 years, increasing bone cancers and leukemia
 - Cold-war era uranium miners died 20-22 years prematurely
- Exposure to uranium from mining causes birth defects, cancer and can even alter DNA
- Uranium is water soluble and can destroy aquifers and rivers
- Uranium "yellow dust" can blow away in the wind and be inhaled
- 40 million Americans depend on the Colorado River for water
 - Colorado River water irrigates crops that feed millions of Americans
- The Mine Inspector cannot stop uranium mining in Arizona, only enforce federal mining regulations to make it as safe as possible
- The current mine inspector levied a fine of only \$100 against an active uranium mine in Arizona in 2017 for failing to report a safety incident, and another \$100 fine for attempting to cover up the incident.
 - These fines are not enough to encourage safety in uranium mines

Mining Inspector Facts:

Please see <https://pierceformineinspector.com/MineInspectorInfo.html> for information on the Mine Inspector's office, duties and necessary qualifications