

New plan to free trapped miners



Engineers in Chile will begin drilling a new shaft at the San Jose mine in an attempt to free 33 miners trapped since August 5. The “Plan C” operation, involving a football pitch-sized oil platform, will run alongside two other drilling machines and could prove to be the fastest of the three options



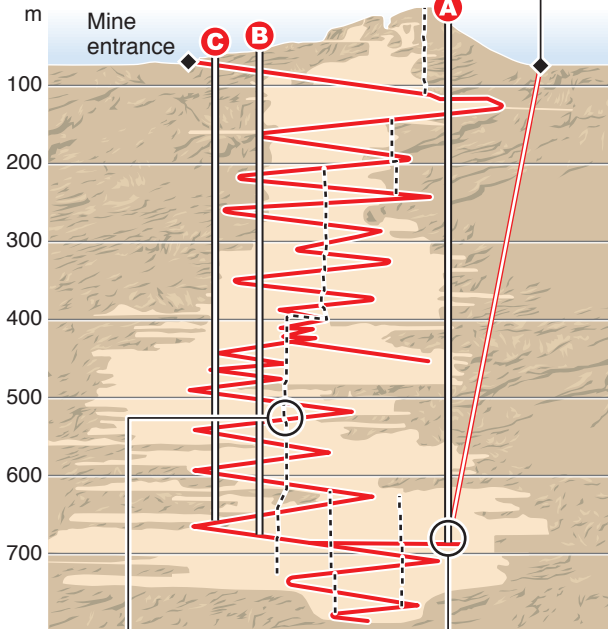
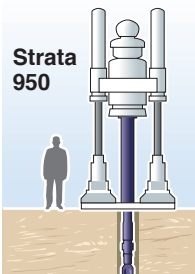
SAN JOSE MINE

- Access ramp
- - - Ventilation duct and emergency escape route
- Mined areas

Narrow shafts used to supply miners and provide link to outside world

PLAN A

Started Aug 30: *Strata 950* drills pilot hole before widening it to 66cm – enough to allow miners to be extracted. Will take 3-4 months to bore down to 700m, where miners are sheltering



Area of collapse

Miners sheltering in emergency refuge

PLAN B

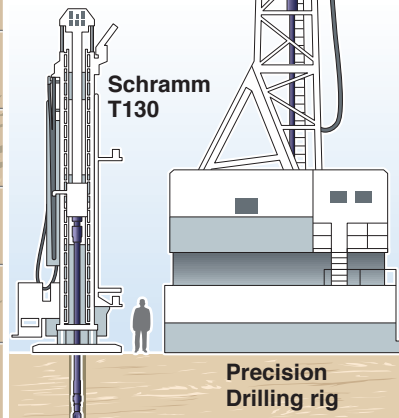
Started Sep 5:

Schramm T130 widens existing supply borehole. Project, which aims to drill down 620m within three months, suffered setback Sep 12 when drill broke. Shaft could be abandoned if drill bit is not recovered

PLAN C

To start Sep 20:

Rig, operated by Canadian company *Precision Drilling*, bores 90cm-wide hole to depth of 600m, at rate of 20-40m per day. If successful, plan could see miners free by November



Rig height 45m

Schramm T130

Precision Drilling rig