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uion on the -
n average of 862 acci-
dents a month or more
than 28 a day, in which
or injured, have been
recorded in South Africa for the
period between January and
August this year.
An additional 455 nonmsualty
accidents were reputed during the
same period.
This is according to the latest
figures compiled by the Govem-
ment Mining Engineer for this
year.
The figures also show that
more than 5 900 workers were
injured while 396 were killed up
to August 20 this year.
By far, the most fatalities
occurred as a result of fall of
ground caused by gravity and
rockbursts. During the period
under review, there were 1 746
incidents of fall of ground in the
seven months to August in which
209 workers were killed.
These tigrammes were released just
weeks before mineworkers com-
memorated the filth year since the
Kinross disaster in which 177
workeis were gassed to death in
an underground tire.
The day was marked by mass
rallies in all major mining towns
and was used to highlight what
the N ational Union Of Minework-
ers says is a continuing disregard
for the safety of mineworkers.
It highlighted at least eight acci-
dents since 1960, when 435 min-
ers were buried alive in the Coal-
brook disaster. Counting the
number of fatalities in these eight
accidents alone gives a ligure of

406 dead.

Accidents

Daily accidents have claimed many more lives and injured over a million workers since the beginning of this century, the NUM says.

0 1960 Coalbrook - 435

killed. '

0 1969 Buffelsfontein - 60

killed.

0 1983 Hlobane - 68 killed.

0 1986 Kinross ' - 177 killed.

0 1987 St Helena - 63 killed.

0 1989 Vaal Reefs - 10 killed.

0 1990 Vaal Reefs East- 21

killed.

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FALL OF GROUND:

ROCKBURST I STRAINBURST

FALL OF GROUND: GRAVITY

MACHINERY: BELTS a PORTABLE

POWER TOOLS

TRANSPORT I MINING:

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: GENERAL' FALL OF MATERIAL

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0 1991 Buffelsfontein- 7 killed.

It' IS against the background of these accidents that the union has made a number of demands

including overhauling the government mine inspectorate,

amending the Mines and Works

Act, worker participation in health

and safety and the right to all

information relating to health and

Mineworkers Injured and disabled In work related accidents make a statement about the 1

ack

o adequate measures to address dangers associated with Inlnlng safety.

The absence of meaningful worker involvement in decisions ' around health and safety take on an added meaning when examined against the background of inadequate compensation, lack of effective prosecution of negligent employers and workers' right to 'refuse work under dangerous conditions.

Five years since the Kinross accident for example, workers' families have yet to be compensated by Genmin.

According to the NUM, Genmin is offering only R40 000 to each family.

And when it comes to prosecuting those responsible for the accident, the Kinross example once again stands out as an example of the inadequacies of the law on health and safety.

Negligence

The miner responsible for the fire in, the Kinross accident was fined R100 for negligence. The mine itself was not prosecuted even though it was found that safety precautions were inadequate in the area where the fire started

There was also no alarm system to warn workers of the danger, according to the NUM. ' Concerns that not enough had been done to avoid future accidents were once again raised last year when 265 workers were injured at Kinross.

SAB may , lock workers out. '