

Mine Subsidence and Abandoned Mines

It is estimated that there are more than 1 million buildings in Pennsylvania that sit atop abandoned underground coal mines. For that reason, areas in and around Unity Township have experienced and continue to experience mine subsidence issues. For those residents that have concerns or problems with mine subsidence, the following information is being provided to assist you in resolving your concerns.

What is Mine Subsidence?

Mine subsidence is the sinking or shifting of the ground surface due to the collapse of an underground mine shaft, causing depressions, troughs or sinkholes on the surface. This underground movement often damages the structures built on top or near the mined out areas.

How do I report a mine substance occurrence?

Should you suspect or observe a sinking, shifting or sudden opening of a sink hole, you should contact the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at **814-472-1800**. They will connect you with the appropriate person to help you with your issue.

Is my home or business located over a mine out area?

To determine if your home or business is located over a mined out area, you should go to the DEP website at **dep.pa.gov** and “click on” Maps. Then “click on” [PA DEP Mine Subsidence Insurance Risk Map](#). Enter your address in the information box and the map will show you if the address is located in a mined area.

Where can I get mine subsidence insurance?

Most insurance companies do not offer mine subsidence insurance to homeowners. You can check with your insurance company to be sure. The DEP however, does offer affordable mine subsidence insurance. You can access the insurance application and coverage premiums by “clicking on” [Mine Subsidence Insurance](#) on the DEP’s website. If you need further assistance, please contact the DEP at **814-472-1800**.