

MINE RESCUE – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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The Past

- 100 + Year History





Thanks
for your help

God bless

Mark Cafe

7.4.197



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National Mine Rescue Association

Draft Guidelines

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 - Alan Dupree – MSHA – (276) 679-0380
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National Mine Rescue Association

Draft Guidelines

- COMMAND CENTER
 - ACTIVITIES CENTER
 - MULTIFUNCTIONAL CENTER
 - MINE RESCUE TEAMS
-







Prevention & Preparation

- Fire prevention managers geographically located
- Crisis Management Plan
- Communications - *24/7 communications center*
- Alternative off-site command center capabilities
- Training
 - *MERD exercises for mine management*
 - *NIOSH Lake Lynn exercises with hands-on fire fighting*
 - *Hands-on fire fighting for mine employees*
- In-place vendor/ERS relationships with 24/7 contacts
- Competition mine rescue teams w/ equipped mine rescue trailers
- Emergency supply caches – strategically located
- Mobile gas chromatographs/sampling capabilities

Initial Response

- Rapid internal and external notifications
 - Rapid mobilization of:
 - Emergency response personnel, including teams
 - Gas chromatographs
 - Emergency supplies
 - Rapid initial assessment of the situation
 - Status of evacuation
 - Nature of event & the appropriate level of response
 - Impact on surrounding community
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Crisis Management

- Assign responsibilities and personnel rotation
 - Physically secure of the area
 - Secure communications flow
 - Line-up outside services - apparatus service representatives, etc.
 - Mine management with knowledge of ventilation and mine workings available on surface
 - Obtain accurate maps and ventilation data as required
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The Teams

- Hardly ever too many teams; benchmen often at a premium
 - Competition teams have an advantage
 - Benefits of electrician & EMT members
 - On exploration use a team member with knowledge of the mine
 - Detectors, communications, non-sparking tools, etc.
 - Small things count – hot food/showers, lodgings, staging areas/phones to call home, pat on the back
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The MINER Act

Rapid Emergency Response Provisions

Rapid Emergency Response System -- Mine Rescue Regs

Team Requirements - All U/G Coal

- Have an employee knowledgeable in mine emergency response on each shift at the mine
 - Make available two certified mine rescue teams
 - Familiarity with the operations of the coal mine
 - Participation at least annually in two local mine rescue contests and
 - Availability at covered mine in one hour ground travel time from the mine rescue station
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Limitation of Liability - Rescue Operations

- Good Samaritan provision for rescue and recovery activities on a 3rd party site

 - Exceptions:
 - gross negligence, reckless conduct
 - illegal conduct
 - where the regular employer is the operator of the mine at which the rescue activity occurs.

 - Does not preempt State workers' compensation laws
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Rapid Emergency Response System -- Mine Rescue Regs

- ***Mines with > 36 Employees***
 - Annual on-site team training at covered underground coal mine

Mines with > 36 Employees

Team #1, which is either
an:

- Individual Mine Site
Mine Rescue Team
OR
- Multi-Employer
Composite Team.

Team #2, which is either
an:

- Individual Mine Site
Mine Rescue Team
 - Multi-Employer
Composite Team
 - Commercial Mine
Rescue Team OR
 - State-Sponsored Team
(made up of state
employees)
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Rapid Emergency Response System – Mine Rescue Regs

- ***Mines with ≤ 36 Employees***
 - ❑ Semi-Annual On-Site Team Training at covered mine
 - ❑ Teams must be knowledgeable about the operations/ventilation of the covered mines
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Multi-Employer Composite Teams

- Train on a semi-annual basis at the covered mines AND
 - Knowledgeable about the operations/ ventilation of the covered mines
 - Include teams that:
 - Cover multiple operators with at least 2 active employees from each covered mine
 - Cover multiple mines owned by the same operator, with at least 2 active employees from each mine OR
 - State-sponsored mine team comprised of at least 2 active employees from each covered mine
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Commercial Mine Rescue Teams

- Definition: Provided by contract through a third-party vendor or mine rescue team provided by another coal company
 - Train quarterly at the covered mine
 - Knowledgeable about the operations/ ventilation of the covered mines AND
 - Members with a minimum of 3 years underground coal mine experience, which has occurred within the 10-year period preceding their employment on the team
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Rapid Emergency Response System – Mine Rescue Regs

■ ***Team Certification***

- ❑ MSHA to establish certification for mine rescue teams
- ❑ Current training requirements remain in effect

Policy on Family Liaisons

- Dedicated DOL official as family liaison where mine tragedy involves multiple deaths
 - Requires MSHA to be responsive to family requests for information
 - Requires MSHA to be the primary communicator with the operator, miners' families, the press, and the public
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Rapid Emergency Response System – Mine Rescue Regs

- Secretary must finalize regulations on mine rescue teams within 18 months
 - Regulations must be effective by **December 15, 2007**
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THE END











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Command Center Security

- Physically secure of the area
 - *Use law enforcement if needed*
 - Secure communications flow
 - Keep information within Command Center
 - *Protect communications to and from the command center from outside monitoring*
 - *Restrict personal outside calls (consider taking up cell phones in the command center and surrounding area)*
 - *Remove phone/loudmouth/access to other areas of the mine site.*
 - Isolate Command Center from outside interference
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Command Center

Personnel Limits

- One Command Center Communications Person
 - *Experienced*
 - *Works undisturbed*
 - *Has direct communications with the working teams*
 - *Facilitates information flow to others in the Command Center*
 - Four Company Representatives
 - One Recorder
 - *Write verbatim what is said (not paraphrased)*
 - One Mine Rescue Team Trainer Three State Inspections Representatives
 - Three MSHA Representatives
 - Two UMWA/Miner's Rep. (where applicable)
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Command Center Communications

- Designate primary underground communications
 - Identify available backup communications
 - Designate Command Center phone number
 - Control entrance and exit of Command Center personnel
 - Schedule a staggered rotation of Command Center personnel
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Command Center

Functions

- Consider team safety at all times
 - Coordinate mine rescue activity
 - Coordinate and continuously track teams' underground activities
 - Maintain constant communications with fresh air base
 - Provide and assure clear, accurate communication between teams, fresh air base (FAB) and Command Center
 - Respond to the needs of teams
 - Coordinate the rescue of survivors
 - Coordinate recovery of the mine
 - Develop trust at all levels of activity
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Command Center Resources

- Mine map for Command Center Communications Person
 - Continuous update of maps for teams/projects
 - Prepare for communicating with multiple teams or FABs
 - Develop visual support for mine maps to identify location of working teams (i.e. magnetic backing on map and icons to represent team locations)
 - FAB person/s with experience
 - Activities Center Committee will identify and supply resources to teams.
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Multifunction Group

Preliminary Activity – Logistical

- **update and maintain current list of key internal and external contacts**
 - **identify various off-site locations near all operations to house family members, news media or other outsiders**
 - **initiate and maintain contact with key, local medical facilities and personnel, emergency response teams and public safety staff, including mental health professionals, counselors and the America Red Cross**
 - **train and equip site spokespersons to gather current information to initially update family members and media until relieved by corporate communications staff, if available and appropriate**
 - **identify potential spokesperson from among executive management for possible press briefing.**
 - **identify adequate nearby food and lodging facilities for staff, mine rescue teams and family members**
 - **coordinate with local emergency response personnel, including police and fire officials, on potential evacuation of nearby commercial, civic and residential areas.**
 - **become acquainted with various relief services offer by local county or municipal governments and the procedure for alerting them in the event of an emergency**
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Multifunctional Group

Preliminary Activity - Technical

- **Maintain copies of current maps of underground operations.**
 - **Identify and train potential experts/spokespersons from various Engineering, mine and corporate management, safety and support staff.**
 - **compile advanced list of potential action items and assigned areas of responsibility to consider in an emergency situation and have copies**
 - **available for appropriate mine management and staff.**
 - **identify staging and triage area on the surface property for use by emergency response personnel, including air ambulances.**
 - **identify on- or off-site facility as temporary morgue for any possible decedents.**
 - **maintain updated list and information on any previous incident, safety performance and any violations in order to explain reasons.**
 - **ensure that operations has adequate phone and data communications services available, including wireless communications, if required.**
 - **identify and become acquainted with various agency communications personnel through personal visits or phone conversations, if possible.**
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