MINE RESCUE – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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The Past

- 100+ Year History
Thanks for your help
God Bless
Work Safe
L.U. 1197
National Mine Rescue Association
Draft Guidelines

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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
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
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
The MINER Act

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
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
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
- Multi-Employer Composite Team.

Team #2, which is either an:
- Individual Mine Site Mine Rescue Team
- Multi-Employer Composite Team
- Commercial Mine Rescue Team
- State-Sponsored Team (made up of state employees)
Rapid Emergency Response System – Mine Rescue Regs

- **Mines with \( \leq 36 \) Employees**
  - Semi-Annual On-Site Team Training at covered mine
  - Teams must be knowledgeable about the operations/ventilation of the covered mines
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
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
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
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
THE END
National Mine Rescue Association
Draft Guidelines

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