



Each month DMME personnel will be conducting monthly safety talks pertaining to Emergency Response and Preparedness. Topic-of-the-Month brochures and safety stickers will be handed out during these talks to help remind you of these critical safety points.



Additional Information

For more information on the Virginia Topic-of-the-Month Mine Emergency Campaign, please contact:

Division of Mines
P.O. Drawer 900
Big Stone Gap, VA 24219
(276) 523-8224

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy has developed several award winning mine safety videos. These videos were made possible thru Grants from the Mine Safety and Health Administration and can be found on our website at:
www.dmme.virginia.gov

Mine Safety Videos:

- ♦ The Right Choice
- ♦ Step Up To The Plate
- ♦ Lead The Way
- ♦ No Way Out
- ♦ The Miners' Bond

UNDERGROUND

WINTER ALERT



Virginia Department of
Mines, Minerals and Energy



Mine Emergency

November 2016
Topic-of-the-Month

MINE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Violations/Orders:

- Roof Control Compliance History (45.1-161.108—120)
- Ventilation Compliance History (45.1-161-216—231)
- Permissibility Compliance History (45.1-161-193 A&B)
- Rock Dust/Cleanup Compliance History (45.1-161.234 & 235)
- Methane Liberation History (Need to check at Mine)
- From October 1, 2015 to October 1, 2016 - 1 serious accident reported in Virginia that resulted in the accident classification of fall of roof, face, ribs

VIRGINIA SERIOUS ACCIDENT

An Underground Electrician was checking the status of a continuous mining machine that was extracting pillars in the #3 entry when a section of rib (coal and rock) became dislodges striking the electrician on the right side, pinning him between the mine floor and the loose rib.

As a result, the electrician received multiple fractures to his right leg below the knee and a dislocated hip on his left side.

The rib measured approximately 26 x 27 x 10.



SAFETY TIPS

- ⇒ Be cautious when mining near abandoned mines. Drill bore holes, research mine Maps (company, DMME, other sources), train employees to identify potential hazards (water seepage through coal, softness or other abnormalities of coal seams, cracks, mud streaks or iron colored partings in coal seam) and understand emergency evacuation procedures.
- ⇒ Certified persons shall make through examinations of all places where miners are assigned to work and travel, especially prior to entering idle and abandoned workings.
- ⇒ A drop in barometric pressure can increase the release of methane in underground coal mines. Always maintain adequate mine ventilation and make frequent checks for methane and proper air flow.
- ⇒ Know your mine’s ventilation plan. Properly maintain methane detection devices. Communicate changing mine conditions to one another during each shift and to the oncoming shift.
- ⇒ Properly maintain and check bleeder systems to ventilate abandoned areas and remove dangerous gases.

SAFETY TIPS - continued

- ⇒ Control coal dust with frequent and liberal applications of rock dust. Maintain water sprays and other coal dust suppression devices in good working condition.
- ⇒ Make frequent visual and sound checks of mine roof during each shift. Never travel under unsupported roof.
- ⇒ Know your escapeways and mine emergency procedures, (such as donning SCSRs, emergency evacuation drills, and knowing how to use fire fighting equipment).
- ⇒ Temperature and humidity changes in the winter months cause the interior mines to become drier and create a greater potential for fires.



MINE EMERGENCY SAFETY CHECK

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|---|---|--|
| T | F | Drop in barometric pressure increases the release of methane in an underground mine? |
| T | F | Certified persons should make through examinations of all places where miners are assigned to work? |
| T | F | All miners should know how to use fire fighting equipment? |
| T | F | Miners should always communicate changing mine conditions to one another during each shift? |
| T | F | Mining near abandoned mines does not create any serious hazards? |
| T | F | Always maintain adequate mine ventilation and make frequent checks? |
| T | F | Make weekly visual and sound checks of mine roof? |
| T | F | Properly maintain and check bleeder systems to ventilate abandoned areas and remove dangerous gases? |
| T | F | Knowing a mines escapeways and mine emergency procedures is the responsibility of the foreman? |
| T | F | Winter months can cause a greater potential for mine fires? |