



# MINER DETAILS



Volume 10 Issue 3 WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training June 2005

## BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

### Agency Accomplishments

#### QDI Classes Now Offered

Our agency now regularly provides a four-day class at the Mine Academy to train Qualified Diesel Instructors. Clark Gillian teaches the class and the students attending become certified to teach eight-hour diesel operator and sixteen-hour diesel mechanic classes.

The Tuesday through Friday class is held in room 214 at the Academy and usually includes a field-trip to a local diesel equipment manufacturing plant. The students are given hands-on experience in equipment pre-op examinations, load testing engines and the use of diagnostic emissions equipment.

Students are provided with teaching materials, record books, and an outline for training operators and mechanics. Several power point presentations and the latest fire suppression system manuals are also provided for the students.

This program is being well received by the industry. Approximately 38 persons have been schooled and certified since this training program began in February 2005. The next QDI classes are scheduled for September 6-9 and December 20-23, 2005. Classes are limited to twenty students.

#### Clear Cutting Safety Program

Last year there were two fatal accidents involving clear cutting operations and several near misses. Proposed regulations establishing safety guidelines were enacted. Also, a training program for the clear cutting industry was developed and implemented by Terry Keen, Surface Inspector. Keen has held the classes all over

West Virginia as well as in Pennsylvania. As of June 2005, over 800 individuals have received training with more classes scheduled. Not only contractors receive the training, inspectors, trainers, and mine employees have attended. MSHA District 2 & 4 inspectors are scheduled for training in the next few weeks. Terry says the program has continually evolved and has been well received.

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When asked if the program had been effective, Terry related two specific instances where lives were likely saved. In the first, a dozer operator would have probably been thrown from his cab and possibly killed had protective screens not been installed. In the second incident, a badly injured tree cutter lying in heavy brush was able to call for help from his co-workers by using a whistle. The whistle is recommended in the training classes as a method of communication between workers. Terry also related that employees wearing recommended chaps avoided several potentially severe cuts from chain saws.

Obviously this is a program of which our agency can be very proud. Good work, to all those involved!

### 2004 Annual Report

The 2004 Annual Report and Directory of Mines is being printed and should be available in a few weeks.

### Did You Know?

#### New Credit Cards

A new vendor, ARI (Automotive Resources International) has been awarded the contract to provide the fuel credit cards and conduct maintenance on state vehicles. Each driver will have a pin number assigned to the individual. The old PHH cards expire June 30<sup>th</sup>, and MUST be turned in to the Inspectors-at-large. The new cards will be effective July 1 and will stay with the vehicle – not the driver. Instructions on the new system will be provided soon.

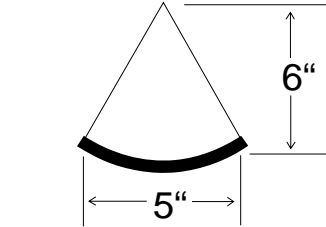
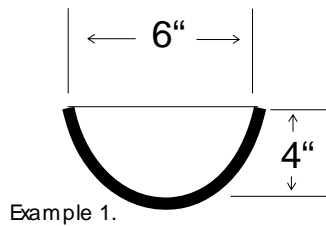
### Split Timbers

Full Pillar extraction plans have been on the increase and are most likely being driven by the current coal market. Remember the smallest round timber that can be used is 4" in diameter and the smallest split timber must have a minimum of 13 sq. in. Larger timbers are required as the mining height increases. Size specifications can be found in Title 36, Series 10, Section 7, conventional roof support. To determine the number of square inches in a split timber, multiply length X width and divide the total by 2. When measuring do not include the bark of the timber.

Example 1. Multiply 6" x 4" = 24 sq in., Divide 24" by 2 = 12 sq. in. This timber is too small for use in any mining height.

Example 2, Multiply 6" x 5" = 30 sq. in., divide 30" by 2= 15 sq. in.

This timber is acceptable up to 60" of mining height.



### Good First Impression

Try this simple tip to help you project a good first impression: Notice the color of a person's eyes as you shake hands. Why it works: You'll gain stong eye contact in a way that shows you're interested in what the person has to say. Source: *Secrets of Power of Persuasion* by Roger Dawson.

### For Your Information Increment Checks

Increment Checks will be issued July, 30 for those employees who are eligible. Incremental pay is 50 dollars per year after three years service.

### Insurance

Those of you who made changes to your insurance during the open enrollment period should notice premium changes in your July checks. Should you have any questions concerning the changes contact Marti Sigmon in the Charleston Office.

### Lightning Facts

Lightning is a powerful part of our weather. A single bolt of lightning is hotter than the sun. And in the time it takes to blink, lightning can strike the ground five times. A single stroke of lightning has 125,000,000 volts of electricity. The flash of a lightning strike and resulting thunder occur at roughly the same time. But light travels at 186,000 miles in a second, almost a million times the speed of sound. The sound of thunder travels at the slower speed of one-fifth of a mile

in the same time. So the flash of lightning is seen before thunder is heard. Lightning causes thunder because a strike of lightning is incredibly hot.

We all should be aware of the dangers of lightning. But do you know the role lightening plays in our life cycles? Lightning is a major factor in the Nitrogen Cycle. Most nitrogen is found in the atmosphere. The nitrogen cycle is the process by which atmospheric nitrogen is converted to ammonia or nitrates.

Nitrogen is essential to all living systems. To become a part of an organism, nitrogen must first be fixed or combined with oxygen or hydrogen. Nitrogen is removed from the atmosphere first by lightning and then nitrogen fixing bacteria. During electrical storms, large amounts of nitrogen are oxidized and united with water to produce an acid that is carried to the earth in rain producing nitrates. Nitrates are taken up by plants and are converted to proteins. Then the nitrogen passes through the food chain from plants to herbivores to carnivores. When plants and animals eventually die, the nitrogen compounds are broken down giving ammonia. The plants take some of the ammonia up; some is dissolved in water or held in the soil where bacteria convert it to nitrate. Nitrates may be stored in humus or leached from the soil and carried to lakes and streams. It may also be converted to free nitrogen and returned to the atmosphere to be struck again!

### Diesel Update

About 43 pieces of diesel equipment have been approved by the Diesel Commission and are somewhere "in the pipeline" for use in underground mines. Some of those approved have not yet arrived at the mine, others are already in use in underground mines or sinking slopes. The several types of new equipment in use include Wallace personnel carriers and maintenance vehicles, A.L. Lee fork trucks, tow tractors, and personnel carriers, and

Getmann motor graders and tow tractors. Older (1970's) Wagner and Eimco scoops are already in the field. The Wagner ST 5A scoops are being used exclusively to sink new slopes in the Welch and Danville regions, while the Eimco 913 and 915 scoops are being prepared for permissible use in the faces as section clean-up scoops for one new mine opening in the Fairmont region. This will be the first use of permissible diesel equipment on a working section. One mine in the Danville region already has six pieces of equipment approved at the mine with plans for 13 other pieces. They are preparing to utilize the diesel equipment to make the first longwall move in July. This one-mile move will be WV's first diesel-powered longwall move. Other companies interested in diesel equipment are watching the success of this first move before committing to diesels themselves.

### Up Close and Personal

**New Employees**  
We have recently hired four new underground mine inspectors: **Kit Phares**, Fairmont, **Bill (Doug) Calloway** and **Gregory Bailey**, Welch and **Harrison Stollings**, Danville. Welcome to all! **Lee Stanley** former district inspector in the Kanawha Division passed away recently.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
WEST VIRGINIA!  
June 20th.**

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Visit the agency's website at:*

[www.wvminesafety.org](http://www.wvminesafety.org)

