



MINER DETAILS



Volume 9 Issue 2 WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training

March 2004

BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

Agency Accomplishments

Free Electrical Classes

A sixteen-hour, high-voltage training class will be offered at the Mining Academy on April 19-20 from 8am to 4pm each day. This training is approved by MSHA as an alternative to the high-voltage training required for those apprentice electricians who do not have high-voltage at their operation. Eight-hour classes on electrical motor calculation will also be available each day. Contact Charles Johnson at 558-1425 ext. 14 to pre-register for these free classes.

2003 Mountaineer Guardian Awards

The 2003 Mountaineer Guardian Awards were presented at the 31st Annual West Virginia Mining Symposium (sponsored by the West Virginia Coal Association Inc.) on January 15, 2004 during a luncheon ceremony. **The winners are:**

Consol. Coal Co.	Robinson Run	Und
Consol. Coal Co.	Shoemaker	Und
Consol. Coal Co.	Blacksville # 2	Und
XMV, Inc.	Mine No. 35	Und
Rivers Edge Mining	Rivers Edge	Und
Dakota Mining, Inc.	No. 2	Und
Aracoma Coal Co.	Aracoma Alma	Und
Marfork Coal Co.	Marsh Fork	Und
Kingston Mining, Inc.	Kingston No. 2	Und
Stanley Industries	Pepper Mine	Sur
Simmons Fork Mini	Simmons Fork	Sur
White Flame Energy,	White Flame 9	Sur
Coal-Mac, Inc.	No. 5	Sur
Pritchard Mining Co.	Dry Branch No. 1	Sur
Alex Energy, Inc.	No. 1 Surface	Sur

Kepler Process. Co.,	Kepler No. 1	Prep
Rocksprings Dev., Inc	Camp Creek Pl	Prep
Hobet Mining, Inc.	Beth Stat. Pl. P	Prep
Evergreen Mining Co.	Prep. Plant	Prep
Pounding Mill Quarry	Mercer Crus. S	Quar
R.G. Johnson, Inc.		Cont

The *Barton B. Lay Milestones of Safety Award* for 2003 was presented to the employees of Consolidation Coal Company, Robinson Run Number 95 Mine.

Inside this Newsletter:

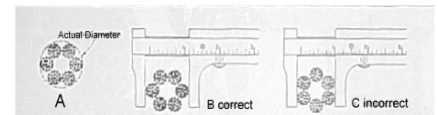
- *Agency Accomplishments*
- *Did You Know?*
- *For Your Information*
- *Up Close and Personal*

Did You Know?

Wire Rope Handling

For all wire rope, the best time to begin taking appropriate care and handling measures is immediately upon receiving it. If wire rope is to be kept unused for a considerable time, it must be protected from the elements. The ideal storage area is a dry, well - ventilated building or shed. Avoid closed, unheated, tightly - sealed buildings, or enclosures because condensation will form when warm, moist outside air envelops the colder rope. Although a lubricant protects wire rope, this is not totally effective since condensation can still occur within the small spaces between strands and wires, thereby creating a corrosion problem. Never store wire rope in areas subject to elevated temperatures. Dust and grit, or chemically laden atmospheres, are also to be avoided. Although lubricant

applied at the factory offers some degree of protection, every normal precautionary measure should be taken with every coil or reel of wire rope. Whenever wire rope remains in position on an idle machine, crane, hoist, etc., it should be coated with an appropriate protective lubricant. If the wire rope is to be kept inactive for an extended period while wound on the drum of the idle equipment, it may be necessary to apply a coating of lubricant to each layer as the rope is wound onto the drum. Cleaning, inspection and re-lubrication should precede start-up of the equipment. When installing wire rope, it is important to check the diameter of the delivered rope before installation. With an undersized diameter rope, stresses will be higher than design and the probability of breaking the rope will be increased. An oversized diameter rope will wear out prematurely. This happens because of abuse to the rope caused by pinching in the grooves of the sheave and drum. The actual rope diameter must be measured. Diameter is defined as its largest cross-sectional dimension. To insure accuracy, this measurement should be made with a wire rope caliper using the correct method. Below is the proper way to measure ropes with an even number of outer strands. For measuring ropes with an odd number of outer strands, special techniques must be employed.



Since the "true" diameter (A) lies within the circumscribed circle, always measure the larger dimension (B).

Safety Improved at River Loadouts

One of the greatest worries at the river docks has to be falling into the river and being crushed between the coal barge and the dock barge. Barges have completely vertical sides and are deep into the water, about 9 feet. Dock workers are often working near this dangerous, narrow area while changing out empty and loaded barges and while measuring the draft as the barge is being loaded. Even a strong swimmer would not have a chance of escape if caught between the long coal barge as it floated against the dock barge. One company, Kanawha River Terminals (KRT), has developed a device they call a "Smash Box" in an effort to counter this hazard.



The smash box is stored close-to-hand at the river edge of the dock, ready to be thrown into the water between the coal barge and the dock barge. The aluminum box floats and is strong enough to prevent the barge from closing against a person who may have fallen into the area of danger. In addition to the smash box, each person's life jacket is equipped with a Man Overboard Alert System that sounds an alarm in the tug boat and in the loadout operator's station. Crews are trained to immediately stop all barge and boat movements when the man overboard alarms sounds. After a quick look into the water, the smash box is thrown into the water to keep the narrow space open between the barges while the person is being rescued. Go to our web page and click on River Loadout Safety to learn more about this safety system and where the equipment can be obtained.

For Your Information

Travel Cards

For those of you have travel cards, be aware that they expire at the end of March. New cards will be automatically issued and sent to you. Contact Art Shumate in the Charleston office if you have any questions concerning the travel cards.

Health Insurance

The open enrollment period for health insurance only will be April through May. If you wish to make changes in your coverage, complete the forms mailed to you and send them to Marti Sigmon in the Charleston Office.

Receiving Reports

Be sure you fill out a receiving report for anything not paid with a credit card. The person who receives the goods, such as boots, must submit a receiving report that includes the vendors name and address, a description of the goods obtained, your printed name, your signature and the date the goods were received. Obtain receiving reports from your supervisor. Contact Barb Hunter if you have any questions.

Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in the USA. West Virginia is second in the nation in deaths from this cancer. We lose around 500 lives a year to the disease. There are generally no warning signs until it may well be too late. If you are in the "at-risk" group, only regular screening is a sure defense against colon cancer. So who is at high risk? This cancer occurs most often in people who are 50 years of age or older. It also occurs often in people who have: a family history of colorectal cancer; prior experience of cancer; a history of chronic digestive disease (inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis); and the presence of certain gene markers for colorectal cancer or other predisposing factors. Nine out of ten cases of colorectal cancer can be successfully treated when it is diagnosed in its early stages, but only 37% of the cases of colon cancer are discovered at this

stage. Another 37% of the cases are discovered when the cancer has spread to tissue surrounding the colon—these patients have a 66% chance of surviving for five years. Finally, about 20% of the cases aren't discovered until the cancer has spread to distant organs—these people have only an 8.5% chance of surviving for five years.

Obviously, it is vital that people who are over age 50 or who are classified as high risk be periodically screened for colorectal cancer.

PEIA provides 100 percent coverage for many colorectal cancer screenings to patients age 50 and over. If you have passed age 50 without being screened, or if you are considered at high risk, have your physician schedule your colorectal cancer screening.

Up Close and Personal

Get well soon! **Randy Smith**, Electrical Inspector and member of the OMHST Mine Rescue team was injured at the Pin Oak Resources #50 Mine near Pineville in Wyoming County while participating in the Mine Exploration and Recovery Plan.

William Bentley Inspector in the Danville Office died in January and **Albert "Whitey" Blakemore** former Training Director died early in March.



This newsletter is published bimonthly by the WV Office of MHS&T

*Governor Bob Wise
Doug Conaway, Director
Contact Person: Dave Kessler*

Visit the agency's website at:

www.wvminesafety.org

