



# MINER DETAILS



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## BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

### Agency Accomplishments

#### Diesel Update

The Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training provides a four-day class each quarter or more often as needed to train, equip and qualify instructors to teach the required diesel classes. Persons who complete the class are issued *Qualified Diesel Instructor* certification cards and are provided all classroom materials needed to compile a diesel operator/mechanic training plan. The instructors are provided with all written materials, DVD / VCR videos, power-point presentations, tests, lesson plans, and an outline for instructing eight-hour diesel equipment operator and 16-hour diesel mechanic classes. The four-day class includes a field trip to a local diesel equipment manufacturing plant where the instructors gain hands-on knowledge of equipment operation, inspection, maintenance, and diagnostic testing methods.

This instructor-training program is designed to equip and train instructors to bring every diesel equipment operator and mechanic to a level of good understanding of diesel equipment operation. Each diesel equipment operator is qualified by attending a minimum eight-hour course, including classroom training on diesel fundamentals and equipment-specific hands-on training on the job. Each diesel mechanic is qualified by successfully completing a minimum of sixteen hours training regarding the general function, operation, maintenance and testing of emissions control and conditioning components. The MSHA 5000-23 form is used to provide documentation of successfully trained operators and

mechanics.

Currently, the Qualified Diesel Instructor course is being taught by state mine inspectors. The program was begun in February 2005, and has successfully trained and equipped 35 instructors to date. Current demand for instructors has required classes to be scheduled for September, October, and December of 2005. Four classes will be offered in 2006.

#### Three Permanent Survey Monuments

Several new mines are opening and inspectors are being called upon to make an exam of the initial highwall and surface area. In addition to checking for a safe highwall, be sure to check the three required permanent markers. They should be cemented in or otherwise protected from movement in freezing weather. They should be installed in undisturbed soil, not filled areas likely to subside as the soil compacts or weathers. The permanent markers might be needed for drill and rescue operations during mine emergencies. Recently at a new mine, one of the three permanent markers was found installed in the center of a new earthen dam near the overflow. Probably would not remain there through the first flood. 22A-2-1 states; "Surveying calculations and mapping of underground coal mines which were or are opened or reopened after the first of July, one thousand nine hundred sixty-nine, shall be done by the rectangular coordinate traversing method and meridians carried through and tied between at least two parallel entries of each development panel and panels or workings adjacent to mine boundaries or abandoned workings. *These surveys shall originate from*

*at least three permanent survey monuments on the surface of the mine property. The monuments shall be clearly referenced and described in the operator's records."*

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### Did You Know?

#### Workers' Compensation Policy

Any employee who files a workers' compensation claim must immediately notify his or her Inspector-at-Large. All employees will be receiving a copy of the Workers' Comp Policy and will be required to sign a Workers' Comp - Sick Leave Awareness Form.

Also, agency employees will be receiving a copy of the Department of Administration's rules on attendance and leave. Employees should pay particular attention to the need to furnish a prescribed physician's statement form for sick leave granted beyond three working days.

#### Syd S. Peng Ground Control in Mining Award

SME-The Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration Inc. will begin an annual "Syd S. Peng Ground Control in Mining Award". The first award will be given at the SME Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO., Feb. 27 - 29, 2006. Ground control is the most important element in mine design. While there have been significant advances in the past few decades, there are still many problems yet to

be resolved. The gap between theory and practice is still wide open. In 1981, **Dr. Syd S. Peng** founded the conference series on Ground Control in Mining to promote the field and to narrow this gap. He has also devoted his whole career toward this objective, using coal mines in the United States and throughout the world as his laboratories. In spite of his life long effort, the gap remains. He established this award with the hope of continuing and expanding this effort! The purpose of the award is to provide recognition to individuals who have demonstrated technical and scientific excellence in advancing the understanding of ground control technologies or approaches by either publication or direct applications in the mining industry. The annual award will be given to an individual or a group that: (1) has shown insight and understanding of ground control issues by developing concepts, theories or technologies that have been adopted by the mining community, or (2) has successfully implemented a ground control design or designs or practices. The award will be available to individuals/groups that have made such contributions to ground control related to coal and/or non-coal (metals, commodities, etc) or aggregate mines.

### ICE (In Case of Emergency)

No we are not talking about the frozen water we put in drinks or the conditions at the North Pole. ICE is a campaign encouraging people to enter an emergency contact number in their cell phone's address book under the heading "ICE In Case of Emergency." This project began as a consequence of recent terrorist attacks in London and has spread around the world by email.

ICE allows paramedics or police to contact a designated relative or next-of-kin in an emergency situation. The designated contact should be someone who knows the medical history of the victim. It may also be a good idea to have

more than one ICE contact in your phone address book.

### New Virus Threat

As cell phones (and other hand held computing devices) become increasing popular, virus threats are beginning to show up. With increased sophistication and features, many of these devices are truly mobile PCs. It was just a matter of time before the virus writers would target this segment of the industry. The first mobile phone virus was detected in June 2004 and the first pocket PC virus showed up in July of that year. Initially the viruses were not destructive. However, that has now changed. For example, one virus named Cabir can now drain a cell phone battery very quickly. The same precautions should be used with these mobile devices as you would with your PC. And yes, there are some anti-virus packages now available for hand-helds. One source for information on this new threat: [www.mobileantivirus.com](http://www.mobileantivirus.com).

### For Your Information

#### Virtual Credit Card Numbers

With the recent theft of over 40 million credit card numbers, many people are hesitant to use their credit cards for on-line purchases. Those individuals may consider using one-time use credit card numbers, called controlled payment numbers or virtual account numbers, for on-line purchases. This type of transaction helps protect your privacy and your security. These substitute numbers let you shop online without using your real credit card number. They usually expire after a single use. The substitute numbers link back to your real card number without you ever having to reveal your actual account number.

The benefit is that if the substitute credit card number is compromised, the substitute number would be worthless and your real credit card number would be secure. Two credit card issuers offer this

service: Citibank and Discover Financial Services. For more information, visit: [Citibank <http://www.citibank.com>](http://www.citibank.com) or the Discover Card <http://www.discovercard.com>

### Underground Mine Inspector Test

Applications are being accepted to take the underground mine inspector test scheduled for mid November. Applications can be obtained from our web site or by contacting the Charleston Office. September 2 is the deadline for requests for applications and September 23 is the deadline for submitting complete applications including the required experience documents.

### Up Close and Personal

**Danny Davis**, Inspector in Region 3 has retired. Good luck Danny! On a sad note, **Chuck Webb**, retired inspector in Region 4 recently passed away. Our sympathy goes out to his family. We would like to welcome **Nicholas Anuszkiewicz** and **Daniel Nulph** GIS Techs. Also **Megan Gross** a GIS Tech has left for a new position with DEP. Thanks and good luck to the summer temps in the mine mapping section who are headed back to school.



### Enjoy the end of Summer!

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

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

