



# MINER DETAILS



Volume 10 Issue 6 WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training December 2005

## BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

### Agency Accomplishments

#### Near Misses

Steve Cox, Safety Instructor in the Danville Office, is preparing a report on near misses that occurred in 2005. Inspectors should contact Steve and provide him with details of near misses in your districts.

#### Diesel Update

Approximately eighty-three pieces of rubber-tired or rail mounted mobile equipment are now approved for use in West Virginia. Most of the equipment is still being constructed at various manufacturing plants throughout the eastern part of the country. The following is the most recent list of equipment approved for use. Mettiki Mining Co's E-Mine in Tucker County has received approval to use three Jeffrey track locomotives, eight additional Hummer personnel carriers, and three service vehicles. Dana Mining-Mount Morris in Monongalia County has one DBT scoop approved. Newtown Energy in Boone county has two 20-ton Brookville track locomotives approved, one at the Eagle mine and one at the Coalburg mine. Two Wallace personnel carriers are approved for Spartan Mining-Ruby Energy in the Danville region. The trend now seems to be to build and use diesel-powered rockdusters and generators. Several more pieces of diesel equipment will be showing up at underground mines in upcoming months.

#### Did You Know?

##### Certification Policy Manuals

Willie Barker, Safety Instructor in the Danville Office, is nearing completion of a revised Certification Policy Manual. Originally published in 1996, the

current policy manual is very out of date. Willie has incorporated the current certification forms and policies into the new document. The new manual will have information on the certifications added since 1996. The biggest advantage will be that the new manual will be available on-line on our web site. It will have hyperlinks enabling the user to jump directly to a particular certification or application. Being an on-line publication, updates and revisions will be much easier to incorporate. Look for the new manual sometime after the first of the year.

#### *Inside this Newsletter:*

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

#### For Your Information Be Watching For...

Non permissible equipment and tools in permissible areas. Last week a young apprentice miner of five months was observed preparing to use an 18 volt non-permissible drill in the last open crosscut of a working section. Our inspector stopped the spad work and had the two-man crew retreat to a safe location for a little BIT/JSA training. The apprentice revealed he had used a similar drill to set spads almost every day since he started in the mine. The transit man, a miner of ten years experience, said he didn't normally work with the apprentice nor realize the battery drill was to be used. Besides, he was in a hurry because the contract engineering employer required that they spad

up two sections that day. The spad crew did not have a methane detector, and was only one crew of almost 30 crews fielded by the contractor on a daily basis. Of course the contract engineering company has been cited and warned to stop this dangerous practice. However, inspectors should be watching for this dangerous practice.

#### West Virginia Public Employees Combined Campaign

The results are in! MHS&T's efforts in the WV Public Employees Combined Campaign resulted in \$3,995.69 turned into the Red Cross Hurricane Relief funds! This total well eclipsed our estimated goal of \$2,500 for our agency. We actually raised over \$4,100 but that included our 50/50 payout. Out of the nine agencies that make up the Department of Commerce we finished in second place in total funds collected! The WV Development Office finished in first place. The Department of Commerce raised a total of \$23,500! Within our agency, the Welch regional office had the highest amount, having raised over \$1,400. We had many activities, some very unique such as a poker run and a garage sale. We also offered a public craft drawing at the WV Quarter Celebration. We also had a number of generous private donations in our donation cans. Overall, food sales were very popular. Hot dog sales bake sales and bean dinners led the list. We had several contests and drawings the winners were:

Crafts-  
Gerald Ellison – Goblin  
CA Phillips – Fall Pumpkin Arrangement  
Tom Harmon – Reindeer  
Gary McComas – Snowman

DOH Employee - Goblin (public drawing).

Kerry Herron won the 50/50 drawing.

Congratulations to all of our contest winners!

We would like to thank all of those who helped to make this effort such a success. First, thanks go to our Agency Coordinator – Kathy Sloan who also served as a co-coordinator in the Charleston Office along with Dave Kessler. In the regions our coordinators were: Brenda Medina & John Lucas in Fairmont, Fred Stinson and Beverly Litz in Welch, Bill Tucker in Oak Hill and Willie Barker & Steve Cox in Danville. Each office had great help from employees, spouses and family – way too many to list here! We thank each of you!

We also want to thank the contributors of the crafts – Tom & Carol Harmon, Eugene White, and Dave Kessler. Barb Hunter was very generous in donating the prizes for the Bingo Contest in Charleston.

Finally, we could not have had a successful drive without the help of all the MHS&T employees who so generously donated time and monies to this worthy cause. Thank you all – very much!

### Digital Camera Recall

Electronics companies are offering free repairs for more than 80 models of digital cameras and camcorders that may contain a faulty imaging chip.

The problem with the chip shows up as distorted or blank images on the viewfinder or LCD display. The manufacturer must authorize repairs. Local repair shops or your electronics vendor may not be aware of the repair offer.

Sony Corp. made the faulty chip from October 2002 through March 2004. The chip has been used in cameras made by Sony, Canon, Nikon, Olympus, Ricoh, Fuji, and Konica. If you have a camera with this problem and it was manufactured by one of the listed companies, go to the manufacturer's web site and search for information on how to have

your model repaired. For example, Sony has the repair information contained in a service memo for its affected models. In Sony's case, the camera was sent for repair to a facility in Texas. The camera was repaired and returned within two weeks. All at no cost to the customer.

### New Surface Lawbooks

We are expecting our first shipment of the new 2005 edition surface lawbooks from the printer this month. The new lawbook will include tree-cutting regulations and also the new regulation concerning cameras for large haulage equipment. The lawbook still has the distinctive green, moisture resistant cover and includes more of the regulations needed for field use. Also, the pocket-sized lawbook is slightly smaller than before and includes several note-keeping pages front and rear. Next, we plan to develop a pocket-sized lawbook addressing shaft, slope and construction regulations. Finally, in the spring we plan to develop a 2006 edition of the full size lawbook that will include diesel regulations, tree cutting, haulage truck cameras, and any other new laws taking effect at that time. This will complete our plan of updating our lawbook series.

### Photocells

If you recall some time ago we ran a series of electrical articles by Jim Berry, former Electrical Inspector in the Danville Office. We recently ran across one article in the series that we missed, so we have included the "Photocell" article here.

A photocell is a metallic "sandwich" or disc composed of three layers of material. One outside layer is made of iron. The other outside layer is a film of translucent or semitransparent material, which permits light to pass through. The center layer of material is composed of selenium alloy. The two outside layers act like electrodes. When light is focused on the selenium alloy through the translucent material an electric charge is developed

between the two outside layers. A direct use of this cell is the common light meter as used in photography for determining the exact amount of light which is present.

Jim, hope you see your article on our website.

### Up Close and Personal

Several employees are recuperating at home including: **Wayne Ashby**, **Billy Dotson**, and **Ron Vance**. We wish them a speedy recovery.

**Gerry Barton** from the Welch Office retired recently and **Randall Bell** also from Welch resigned and is now working for MSHA. We wish him success in his new career.

We would like to welcome the following new employees:

**Norris Dyer**, Surface Inspector in Danville and **William Lawson**, Electrical Inspector in Welch. Welcome to the agency!



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
**And**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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

*Governor Joe Manchin III*

*Doug Conaway, Director*

*Contact Person: Dave Kessler*

*Visit the agency's website at:*

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

