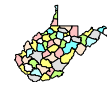




MINER DETAILS



Volume 9 Issue 1 WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training

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BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

From the Director's Office

Reciprocity

Be aware that 22A-1-39 allows certified persons from other states that have agreements with WV to perform duties that require WV certifications such as foreman or certified miner (Also see 22A-8-8). Currently, there is no reciprocity with the state of Virginia concerning experienced coal miner certification. (See March 17, 2003 memo from Doug Conaway.) Foremen with out-of-state foreman certificates may act in the capacity of certified miner or certified Mine Forman / Fireboss until the next scheduled foreman exam or for a period not to exceed 90 days (see 22-2-7d). Persons with only out-of-state miners certification must obtain WV miners' certification prior to starting work following the requirements of Title 48, Series 2, Section 2.9 (c) or Title 48, Series 3, Section 2.10 (c).

Agency Accomplishments

Miner Details Now On-line

This issue of *Miner Details* is the first to be posted on our website. The page on the website will include not only the current issue, but several years of back issues. In order to read the on-line version, you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. This is a free download and the link is on the web page. We also hope to have an index to some of the previous articles.

Safety Presentation

A Power Point presentation titled "Surface Mine Operation of Mantrips and Approaching Mobile Equipment" is now available. A number of CD's have been distributed to each regional office. This safety presentation was

developed as a result of recent surface mine fatal accidents. It includes accident photographs and recommendations for prevention. The presentation which was developed by surface mine inspectors Mike Aremtrout and Terry Keen of the Oak Hill office, with assistance from others, will be a useful tool for safety talks. The presentation is available for download from our website. It is a large file and could take some time to download.

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Did You Know?

Find It Fast

Monte Hieb has been doing some great work lately with mine maps in an effort to quickly and accurately pinpoint an underground mine location from the surface. He obtained a digital copy of all WV mine maps from the federal repository in Pittsburgh. He also obtained a digital copy of all USGS topographic maps and has somehow managed to accurately blend the two together. Perhaps some of you have seen some of the impressive maps he produces showing the underground mine layout superimposed onto a color topographic map. Immediately this has helped show some inspectors problem areas like abandoned oil wells in relation to the current underground sections. Mines above and surface strip mine contours are clearly shown in subtle different colors. Monte can attach a global

positioning unit to the top of his jeep and connect it to his laptop computer (which contains all these maps), then drive to a certain area while watching the movements of his jeep plotting across the computer screen. This is a great way of locating or identifying abandoned or lost oil or gas wells, or of determining how much refuse might be covering a particular well. If needed, this new technology would be used to quickly pinpoint a drill site to help rescue miners trapped underground.

Eight or Ten?

Have you wondered why MSHA records ten mining fatalities for WV, when MHS&T lists eight? MHS&T does not count fatal accidents unless they occur on bonded coal property since our inspection authority is limited to bonded property. Two of the 2003 deaths that MSHA records for WV occurred off bonded mining property in areas not authorized to be inspected by MHS&T. One occurred at a synfuel plant when an equipment specialist died as the result of a can of ether exploding. The second occurred when an excavator operator was working to maintain sumps at a property no longer bonded or inspected by MHS&T. On the other hand, a neighboring state records ten mining fatalities for 2003, however MSHA records eight for that state. The two that the neighboring state counts (that MSHA does not) include a certified surface miner killed by a falling tree while clear cutting ahead of the surface mine; and a dozer operator that inadvertently trammed off a surface mine high wall.

For Your Information

Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association (JAHS) was founded in 1916 and is named for the first Director of the US Bureau of Mines. Twenty-four leading national organizations representing the mining, metallurgical and allied industries responded to the need to reduce accidents, fatalities and mining-related illnesses in the mining and allied industries by creating a safety awards program. Various individual awards such as Hero Award and Merit Award are issued by the association. The JAHS also issues awards for persons with 10, 20, 30, and 40 years without lost time accidents. Companies are issued awards for 50,000 hours without lost time, 100,000 hours without a fatality or permanent disability (both available for companies with less than 25 employees). Other company awards include 250,000 hours without lost a time accident (underground mines), 350,000 hours without a lost time accident (surface mines), 600,000 hours without a lost time accident (more than 25 employees), and 4,000,000 hours without a fatality or permanent disability (more than 25 employees). The Aracoma Council in Logan, WV, holds bi-monthly meetings. The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, Feb. 12, 2004. The Coal River Council in Madison, WV is scheduled to meet Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2004. The New River and Winding Gulf Council also meets again on Feb. 10. Please attend the next meeting in your area. We can make a difference. Visit

www.msha.gov/programs/jah.htm to learn more.

Olgebay Park in June

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association and the National Association of State Mine Inspection and Training Agencies and the Mine Safety Institute of America will hold their 2004 Joint Mine Safety Meetings June 20-24 at Olgebay Park in Wheeling, WV. For further information contact Cindy Shumiloff (304) 225-6853 or Sharon Cook (304) 369-5252.

Over 250 people attended the last state-wide Holmes Safety Association meeting. A larger number is expected at this nation-wide meeting

Useful Website

The West Virginia Division of Personnel has a very informative web site. State employees should be aware of the services and information provided by the division of Personnel. Go to www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel and check out this site.

Leadership

Almost nothing is more helpful in dealing with people than a sense of humor. Now, a sense of humor doesn't necessarily mean a knack for telling jokes. Rather, it means the ability to take some setbacks and still see that the world has not come to an end. If you can keep from taking a situation or yourself too seriously, you'll get much better results. If you don't take yourself too seriously, there are always things in any situation that are still amusing, that you can still smile about. And a smiling, cheerful leader invariably wins more cooperation than a grim or gloomy one. If all you do in a crisis is add to the heat and confusion, people will soon lose respect for your abilities under pressure. But if you can maintain your sense of proportion and humor when the world seems to be falling apart, people who rely on you will show their appreciation in better work and greater loyalty. Yes, some problems are serious, but there's nothing to be gained by exaggerating their importance. Get in the habit of taking yourself and your problems less seriously. Learn to smile at yourself and the world as well. You'll get better results and actually have more good things to smile about when you do.

Country Pumpkin Bread

¾ cup shortening
2 ½ cups sugar
4 eggs, beaten
2 cups cooked pumpkin

2/3 cup water
3 ½ cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon, baking powder
2 teaspoon, soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon allspice
1 cup black walnuts
2/3 cup raisins

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream shortening, sugar and eggs. Stir in pumpkin and water. Mix together flour, baking power, soda, salt and spices. Stir dry ingredients into wet ingredients. Fold in nuts and raisins. Spoon batter into two greased and floured 9x5 inch loaf pans and bake for one hour, or until bread tests done with a toothpick. Yield: 2 loaves.

Up Close and Personal

Several former employees have recently passed away. Art Price, and Dave Henderson, former inspectors, both from northern WV and Galena Iddings, former secretary in the Oak Hill Office.

Enjoy Winter Sports!



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

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Visit the agency's website at:

www.wvminesafety.org

