



MINER DETAILS



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BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

Agency Accomplishments

On-line Tonnage Reporting

MHS&T is pleased to announce the availability of on-line tonnage reporting for coal mine and quarry operations. This new service allows a mining entity to complete and submit their required monthly reports via the Internet using a secure remote entry process. If companies opt to file electronically, they will no longer need to file paper copies of the reports with this office. Go to www.state.wv.us/mhst, look for What's New, click on "submit tonnage reports", click on "submit a request" complete the form and await approval which may take up to a day.

Independent Contractor Update

The regulation requiring monthly reporting by Independent Contractors has been in effect since October of 2002. We are beginning to see some of the results from these reports. For example, over three million employee hours have been reported from 1,483 contractors. The contractors employ at least 13,000 employees each month. We can show the permits where a contractor has been working and if there have been any reported injuries. We began enforcement of the regulation with the January reporting period. Computer generated violations were issued for each of the first three months to those contractors who failed to report during those reporting periods. To make reporting easier, we are developing an on-line process where contractors will be able to report through the Internet.

New Mine Rescue Truck

Plans are in the works for a new mine rescue vehicle. The vehicle will feature a new cab and chassis

with a 24-foot long box. The truck will be outfitted with benches, shelves, booster pump, a water tank and all necessary mine rescue supplies. This vehicle represents a major investment for the agency and should serve us for many years. We are projecting late fall or early next year for the delivery.

2002 Annual Report

The 2002 Annual Report and Directory of Mines are being printed and should be available in a few weeks.

Inside this Newsletter:

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Mine Rescue Contest Schedule

Here is the West Virginia mine rescue schedule for 2003: *Coal River-Aracoma Holmes Safety Assoc.* June 11, East Lynn, WV, *Ohio Valley* June 18 and 19, St. Clairsville, OH. *West Virginia State Mine Rescue, First Aid, Bench and Pre-shift Contest*, not scheduled due to National Contest. *Virginia Mining Institute Annual Safety Days*, August 5, 6, and 7, Blacksburg, VA. *N.M.R.A. Post 5 Mine Rescue and Bench Contest* August 13 and 14, Morgantown, WV. *Southern WV Mine Rescue Assoc.* August 27 and 28, Beckley, WV. *National Mine Rescue and Safety Contest*, September 15-19, Louisville, Ky.

Did You Know?

Roof Control Seminar

A Roof Control Seminar was held May 28 and 29, 2003 in Beckley, WV. NIOSH and manufacturers of roof support materials introduced new information and technology

for roof control. NIOSH presented results of a few studies that revealed from 1992 to 2001 that a miner is 3 times more likely to receive a fatal injury during retreat mining. A mine is made up of 10% intersections yet 50% of the roof fall accidents occur at intersections. When mining above a pillared area, two years should be allowed for the gob to compact. When the depth of cover is between 600 and 1,200 feet, the stability factor, when using ARMPS, may be a little bit lower and still provide adequate stability. (A workshop on how to use NIOSH Software will be conducted at Charleston WV in Sept.) Jenmar introduced a new 3 leaf expansion shell that works better with light weight jam nuts and has more bearing surface against the wall of the drill hole. An R-2 plate that is used as supplemental roof support and proper installation of Big John, 100 ton and Little John, 50 ton steel props were shown. Strata Products is testing the use of 2-10" prop setters banded together and a product named, Lock and Load, a wooded support that can quickly be set in varying heights that may work very well as emergency roof support material. Fosroc, makers of mine sealants and resin, is now Minova, Inc. and has been working with Excel Mining Systems on a roof bolt that Excel calls an eclipse bolt. The roof bolt head is slightly off set from the main body of the roof bolt to aid in the shredding of the plastic resin cartridge and reduce the effects of "gloving". JH Fletcher recommends additional measures be utilized when the floor type roof bolter is used in heights that exceed 8 feet to allow safe installations of resin cartridges and roof bolts from the mine floor rather than climbing on the drill heads. These are a few

of the changing trends in roof control.

Lawnmower Safety

All the rain we've had this season has given new meaning to lawn care. Most people find the grass needs cut every five to seven days and mowers often become stuck in the mud. You might find yourself pushing and then fleeing while the spouse, son or daughter tries to drive the mower out of the mud. Children should NEVER be taken "for a ride" on riding lawnmowers or even be near one when it is running. All young children should be INSIDE the house when the lawn is being mowed. Even push mowers are dangerous and can throw objects such as rocks and nails and cause serious injury. Children should not be encouraged to play on lawnmowers even if they are turned off.

Wear proper clothes/footwear when using lawnmowers, weed eaters, and other similar equipment. Flip flops, halter tops, short shorts and sandals are not the best choice here...they offer no protection from sun, grit, potential flying debris or insects. Eye protection is a good idea when using powered weed trimmers or riding a mower near trees and shrubbery. A breathing mask will help, especially with levels of pollen and mold so high this year.

If something becomes caught in the lawnmower blade, the mower should be turned off and the spark plug(s) disconnected before turning the mower over to check/correct the problem. It is safer to put the gas in BEFORE you start mowing while the engine is still cold. Electric mowers have their own hazards; study the manual. If possible, mow during a relatively cool part of the day and drink plenty of water. And yea, remember to turn off the blades before you push!

Health Notes

Why Does My Stomach Growl?

"You have long intestines, and anything you've eaten in the last 24 hours, or even longer, could be in those intestines. So what you had to eat, how much air you

swallowed, and when you ate is probably the critical factor. A lot of carbonated beverages or beer and swallowing air and things like that would add a lot of air to your intestines, along with the food. The gurgling sound comes from the air." (Source HealthCentral.com)

For Your Information

Loveridge Mine Fire Update

Work continues to contain the mine fire in Consol's Loveridge 22 Mine in Marion County. Crews first used the jet engine mentioned in the last issue of *Miner Details* to extinguish the fire enough that mine rescue teams could enter the mine. Falls had occurred down wind of the jet engine from the engine exhaust heat. Some falls were in the slope and others on the slope bottom. The fire had originated near the slope bottom with a mine car of trash as the possible source. Seals have been built to seal off the original fire area, with a new extension and turnout of the slope to be developed out by the sealed area. More than 400 miners are idled as a result of this fire.



Loveridge mine fire work continues

Road Assistance

For those of you who travel in West Virginia, know that the Courtesy Patrol operated by the WV Department of Transportation is there to help you. If you find yourself in trouble on the highway, you can call 1-888-359-3683 for assistance. They can't fix your car, but they can provide basic help such as jump-starts, gas to get you to a pump, help with a flat tire and they can call a wrecker service for you. Keep the number handy in your vehicles.

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, please contact Marti Sigmon in the Charleston Office.

New Tax Law

As a result of the *Jobs & Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act*, there are several changes that may effect your check. The tax rate dropped two percentage points for most tax rates. The new tax law also raised the standard deduction for married couples and most importantly the "marriage penalty" is removed.

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 of service.

Up Close and Personal

Bob Porter has received a disability retirement as of June first. We wish you well Bob in your retirement.

Willie Barker has joined our group as Safety Instructor in Danville. Welcome Willie.



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