

MINER DETAILS



Volume 6 Issue 2 WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training April 2001

BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

From the Director's Office

West Virginia has experienced four mining related fatalities and several serious, life-threatening injuries to date. The operator of a track locomotive was killed when the battery locomotive ran away on February 2nd. On March 13, an electrician was electrocuted while energizing a pole-mounted capacitor. The next day, a preparation plant worker was killed when he apparently fell onto a conveyor belt. A roof fall accident claimed the life of a continuous miner operator on March 31st. A roof fall on a pillar section seriously injured a timberman on March 17. An electrician was burned when welding tanks exploded after being caught in a continuous miner ripper head. Another electrician lost a leg as a result of a rib-roll accident on March 30th.

Be aware that mining activity seems to be on the increase with an alarming increase of accidents. The trend clearly indicates a need to encourage safe day - to -day work practices at all operations, surface and underground.

Agency Accomplishments Thermal Dryer Training

Recently MSHA's District 5 requested that our agency provide thermal dryer training for their mine inspectors. Clark Gillian, inspector in the Region 4 office, traveled to MSHA's District 5 in Norton, Virginia and provided the training there. Eleven MSHA and seven Virginia mine inspectors attended the weeklong class given in early March. Students learned about the five McNally and the three ENI thermal dryers operating in southwest Virginia through 21 hours of classroom training.

MSHA reports the training provided by our agency was well received and very helpful.

Mountaineer Guardian Awards

The 2000 Mountaineer Guardian Awards were presented at the 28th Annual West Virginia Mining Symposium (sponsored by the West Virginia Coal Association Inc.) on February 15, 2001 during a luncheon ceremony. Below is a list of those operations honored at the event.

Company	Facility Name
Arch of West Virginia	Ruffner
Bluestone Coal Co.	Keystone No. 6
Catenary Coal	Samples Surface
Coal-Mac, Inc.	No. 5
Consolidation Coal Co.	Robinson Run No. 95
Elk Run Coal Co.	Black Knight II
Elk Run Coal Co.	Laurel Alma Mine
Fola Coal Co., Inc.	Peach Orchard Plant
Hobet Mining, Inc.	Slab Fork
Independence Coal Co.	Twilight
J. F. Allen Co.	J. F. Allen Quarry
Kanawha River Mining Co.	Sycamore South
Kingston Mining, Inc.	Glen Alum Mine
Marfork Coal Co.	Marfork Processing
Mystic Energy, Inc.	Candice No. 2
New Land Leasing	Pax No. 2 Surface
Peerless Eagle Coal Co.	Lilly Fork Surface
Pen Coal Corp.	Kiowa Creek Plant
Point Mining, Inc.	Campbells Creek No. 4
Pounding Mill Quarry	Mercer Crushed Stone
Premium Energy, Inc.	No. 1
Pritchard Mining Co.	Lens Creek No. 2
Roblee Coal Co.	Jesse's Run No. 2
Roxy Rebuild, Inc.	No. 1
Simmons Fork Mining, Inc	Surface
United Coals, Inc.	Rider No. 1
Wesley Leasing, Inc.	No. 1

The Barton B. Lay, Jr. *Milestones of Safety Award*, the foremost award in West Virginia mine safety for 2000, was presented to the employees of Mingo Logan Coal Co., Mountaineer Mine. The Mountaineer Mine is located in Mingo County near Wharnccliffe. This mine employs approximately

220 salaried and hourly employees working three shifts. The mine has produced nearly 45 million tons of coal since opening in 1992

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For Your Information Deputy Director Appointed

CA Phillips has been appointed as the new Deputy Director for our agency. CA comes to us from the UMWA where he worked as an International Health and Safety Representative. Welcome aboard CA!

New Fire Fighting Agents

New agents have been developed that attack the heat component of the traditional fire triangle. By cooling fire site temperatures, the new products deprive fire if its essential element, while at the same time increasing fire fighting access and decreasing extinguishing time. One new product catching our attention is Pyrocool. This product is developed for rapid fire knockdown and has profound cooling of all basic classes of fires except electrical fires. Our Mine Emergency Rescue Team hopes to begin using this product to help fight mine fires. The material provides the additional security of a foam blanket, which adheres to three-dimensional surfaces and helps trap the chemical vapors, which could be an underground hazard. The product is used at a

low 4/10% solution, which is about one tenth of the required rate for other similar products. Pryocool is non-toxic, non-corrosive, PH neutral, and rapidly biodegradable. It was used with great success on the coal seam fire near Montgomery on Rt. 60 last fall. The product is also useful as a water-wetting agent for dust control.

Did You Know?

Helpful Website

Listed below is a website to help your children or grandchildren with their schoolwork. The site has additional links to sites for Social Studies, Science, Math and English. The site name is: www.school.discovery.com (click on the "for your kids" link)

New Safety Videos

The two latest safety films available from MHS&T are “**Dozer Stockpile Safety**” and “**Highwall Mining**”. The stockpile safety video came about as a result of several accidents involving dozers becoming trapped in stockpiles with underground feeders. The film focuses on the enclosed cabs of the dozers and how the now-required strengthened glass and other safety features protects the operator if the dozer should become entrapped.

The second film concerns one of the newest surface mining techniques – Highwall Miners. There are approximately 15 of these machines now operational in the state with more installations planned. A Highwall Miner is a hybrid cross of an auger and a continuous miner. Using a continuous miner head, coal recovery is much greater than with a conventional auger and the depth of the cut may be as deep as 900 feet. This video shows a Highwall Miner in operation and details the safety hazards associated with these machines.



West Virginia Highwall Miner

All MHS&T Regional Offices have copies of these videos.

What's Cooking?

Old Timey Potato Soup

1 medium onion, minced
1/4-cup butter
4 cups diced raw potatoes
2 cups water
1-teaspoon salt
4 cups milk
Few dashes celery seed
4 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled (optional)
Sauté onion in butter until translucent. Add potatoes, water, and salt, and cook until tender. Add milk and season to taste. Simmer a few minutes before serving.

2000 Census

The 2000 census indicates that population in West Virginia's 2nd Congressional District (middle 3rd of the state) has greatly increased, while population in the 3rd District (southern third of the state) has greatly decreased. There was not much change in the 1st District (northern). Because of the population shift, the state will need to redraw the district lines.

Up Close and Personal

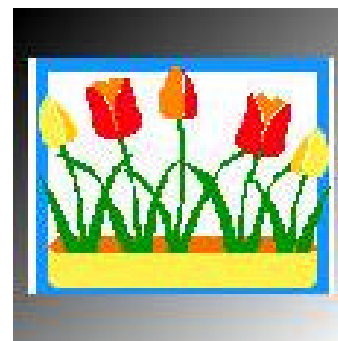
Boyd Vance, Safety Instructor, and **Rod Wallace**, Surface Inspector, are welcomed back to work after short illnesses. Both work in the Region 3 Office.

Tyrone Coleman has left our agency and returned to private industry. Much luck Ty!

William (Bill) Tucker of the Oak Hill office spends his leisure time with his 9 grandchildren, bowling, hunting and fishing, and plays shortstop for the church softball

team. Bill is very active in the church and Wednesday night Bible study. Bill and his wife Peggy enjoy building their communications business together and recently returned from a visit with his daughter in Hawaii.

Kevin Betler of the Buckhannon office spends his leisure time camping with his wife and daughter. Kevin enjoys NASCAR, catch and release fly-fishing for trout and Sunday rides in his Mustang convertible. **Milton Smallwood** of the Welch office spends his leisure time with his children and grandchildren hunting and fishing, riding 4-wheelers and learning about computers. Milton enjoys flea markets, antique shows, playing golf, watching football, gardening and working on vehicles. **Dave Kessler** of the Charleston office spends his leisure time building and collecting accurate scale models, as well as gardening. Dave also enjoys reading, especially about the Civil War and doing family history. **Garry McComas** of the Oak Hill office spends his leisure time with his children and grandchildren camping, fishing, collecting model trains, jukeboxes and Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls. Garry has a working jukebox with 50's and 60's rock and roll music. Garry enjoys flea markets, antique shows, yard sales, NASCAR, football, church and talking with people.



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

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Visit the agency's website at:

www.state.wv.us/mhst