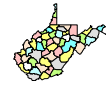


# MINER DETAILS



Volume 6 Issue 4

WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training

August 2001

## BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

### Agency Accomplishments

#### Roof Control Seminar-

All MHS&T roof control inspectors attended a roof control seminar at the Mine Health and Safety Academy, Beckley WV on May 30 and 31. Representatives from NIOSH, MSHA, and MSHA's Technical Support group provided information about remote control mining, ATRS extensions, pull tests, multiple-seam mining, and a roof bolt jam nut problem that could only be observed after a roof fall occurred. The jam nuts on some of the roof bolts are so strong that it caused the expansion shell to twist upon installation and render the roof bolt ineffective. If you observe this problem, (indicated by twisted leaves on expansion shells after roof falls occur) it should be discussed with the roof control inspector in your region. Representatives from Jenmar, Fosroc, Fletcher, Excel Mining, and American Commercial introduced new technology that their companies are developing for the coal industry. They displayed roof and spider caps that are used in conjunction with the roof bolt plate to reduce the amount and size of scaling roof materials. New flexible mine sealants are now available to keep the air from the mine roof that is susceptible to scale. A new computerized roof drill system now determines the type of roof material being drilled, records the location and number of separations experienced while drilling and downloads the information to a computer for later use.

#### Grant Activity Reporting

As most of you know, we are now tracking more MSHA Grant

Activity than in the past. Most of the support activity for the grant was not reported previously. We need to document to MSHA just how much of our time directly supports the grant. It is important that any activity by our employees that supports the grant should be included. For example, answering questions concerning certification is a reportable activity. Distribution of study materials is also reportable as is the development of those materials. A new State Grants Activity Reporting Form was developed to help more accurately and completely record the time spent by MHST employees on activities supported by the program. Some of the changes were necessitated by reporting requirements from MSHA. Additional codes were added to better describe the activities being reported. Should you have any questions concerning the program, contact Jeff Robinette in Charleston.

#### *Inside this Newsletter:*

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- *Did You Know?*
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### For Your Information

#### Flood Damage

Several of our inspectors lost their homes and automobiles in the recent flood, others received much water damage to their residences. Eugene White of P.O. Box 41, Dorothy, WV 25060 lost his home, all belongings that were in his home and both of his personal vehicles. Gerald Pauley of 182 East Lawson, Dorothy lost his

home and all belongings. James Eddie Miller, of P.O. Box 52 Jesse, WV 24849 suffered five feet of water inside his home. Besides those who lost everything, there were other employees who had substantial property loss. Damage included washed out foundations, damaged heating systems, and flooded basements. For up-to-date flood recovery information check <http://www.state.wv.us/governor/wvflood/>.

#### Interesting Web Sites

As the Internet grows, you can find just about anything with a simple search. Listed below are a couple of very interesting websites. We hope you find them useful as well as educational.

Did you know you can deodorize your refrigerator with charcoal briquettes (not the match lights)? Or that you can find a contact lens on the floor or carpet with nylon hose? These tips and many others can be found at this very interesting web site: <http://www.wackyuses.com/>. Just as its name implies, it contains hundreds of uses for ordinary household products. One more tip, clean car battery corrosion with soda pop.

Another site worth mentioning is <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/map/wv.html> which is a national site with out-of-the-way tourist attractions for each state. For West Virginia, you can find information on the WV Mummies, and the world's largest teapot along with many other state attractions.

#### New Coal Product - "CFoam"

"Cfoam" is carbon foam manufactured from coal and is a next-generation structural material. It is a home-grown product being developed by Touchstone Research

Laboratory in Triadelphia, Ohio County. Cfoam is lightweight, fire-resistant, and extremely strong with great thermal insulating properties. Naturally it has many possible military and civilian uses. It may be used in ship building, in aircraft construction, and many other defense-related functions. In the commercial sector, Cfoam may find its way into brake disks, heat exchangers, fire doors and various construction applications. A sample is to be tested on the space station for evaluation by NASA. All of this from a lump of WV coal!

### 2000 Annual Report

The 2000 Annual Reports are now available. Copies should be available in all regional offices.

### Did You Know?

#### New Video

A new training video is being distributed to all mines. The video shows details of fatalities 1- 6 of 2001. It also includes introductory remarks by Governor Wise.

#### EMTs

Emergency medical services personnel shall be employed on each shift at every mine that: (1) Employs more than ten employees and (2) more than eight persons are present on the shift.

#### Sightline in Roof Control

Title 36 Series 10 Section 4.2. A sightline or other method of directional control shall be used to maintain the projected direction of mining in entries, rooms, crosscuts and pillar splits.

### Up Close and Personal

#### Recent Passings:

Two former Directors of the WV Department of Mines passed away recently. **Wilbur F. "Ike Eigenbrod"** former Director of the WV Dept. of Mines (1963-1965) died July 8, 2001 from illness. **Walter N. Miller**, former Director of the WV Dept. of Mines (1976-

1983) died July 11 in an automobile accident.

**Bob Porter** of the Charleston Office was recently installed as Commandant of the Marine Corps League 947. Bob was introduced and presented his gavel by Governor Wise during the installation ceremony.



**Governor Wise Congratulating Bob Porter**

**Charles Johnson** has taken a new position in our agency as Administrator of Mine Rescue and Training. Charles recently served as a member of the Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety, a position from which he resigned. **Leon Bailey**, safety instructor, has been assigned to the Charleston office to assist Charles Johnson, and to help with our computer system and our training programs.

### I Chose to Look the Other Way

I could have saved a life that day  
But I chose to look the other way  
It wasn't that I didn't care  
I had the time, and I was there  
But I didn't want to seem a fool  
Or argue over the safety rule  
I knew he'd done the job before  
If I called it wrong, he might get sore  
The chances didn't seem that bad  
I've done the same, he knew I had  
So I shook my head and walked on by  
He knew the risks as well as I  
He took the chance, I closed an eye  
And with that act, I let him die  
I could have saved a life that day  
But I chose to look the other way  
Now every time I see his wife  
I'll know I should have saved his life  
That guilt is something I must bear,

Bit it isn't something you need share

If you see a risk that other take,  
That puts their health or life at stake

The question asked, or thing your say

Could help them live another day

If you see a risk and walk away

Then hope you never have to say

I could have saved a life that day

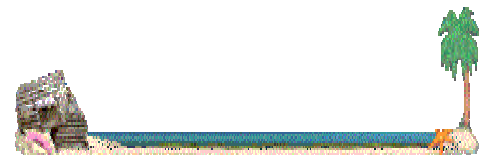
But I chose to look the other way.

**Author Unknown**

### Vacation Safety

The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. You should always swim with a buddy, never swim alone. Swim in supervised areas only and obey all rules and posted signs. Watch out for the "dangerous too's"- too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun, too much strenuous activity. Don't mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance, and coordination, affects your swimming and driving skills, and reduces your body's ability to stay warm. Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts. Stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather. Know how to prevent, recognize and respond to emergencies. Remember to first swim parallel to the shoreline and then toward the shore should you be swept out while at the beach.

***Have a Great Vacation!!***



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Visit the agency's website at:

[www.state.wv.us/mhst](http://www.state.wv.us/mhst)