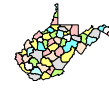




MINER DETAILS



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WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training

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BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

From the Director's Office

2001 Employee of the Year

Director Doug Conaway recently presented awards to the winners of the 2001 Employee of the Year in each of the three categories. The winners were nominated and selected from these categories: Administrative, Inspector/Instructor, and Supervisor.

Margie Terrell, Office Assistant in the Charleston office is the winner from the Administrative category.

Benny Comer, Electrical Inspector in the Region 1 Fairmont office is the winner from the Inspector/Instructor category.

Don Dickerson, the Assistant Inspector-at-Large in the Region 2 Welch Office, is the winner in the Supervisory category.

Director Conaway presented the winners with a plaque and a clock at their respective offices since our agency did not have a staff meeting this year. Congratulations to the 2001 Employee of the Year winners!

Agency Accomplishments

New Safety Videos

Two new safety videos are now available. The first, "Preshift Examinations", details the requirements for preshift examinations in West Virginia mines and shows how the exams may be conducted. The second film, "High Voltage Trailing Cable Splicing", may be used in conjunction with training for the high voltage certification. Copies of these videos are available from the Charleston Office.

New Desk Size Law books

A new 2001 edition of our desk size law book will be available soon. Look for the following

changes: Title 56 Series 5 (Blaster Certification) has been removed since being repealed and given to the Division of Environmental Protection for enforcement. The diesel regulations have greatly changed since the passage of Senate Bill 53. Some administrative changes can be found in 22A-6-3 where House Bill 2901 made some changes to the Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety. Another change, the definition of an EMT is reflected in Article 10. A new section resulting from House Bill 2617 concerning reciprocity of mine foreman and miners' certificates can be found in 22A-1-39. Spending authority of our agency, primarily changing 22A-2-63 (n), was also affected by this bill. Also, the latest coal stockpile regulations are now included.

Inside this Newsletter:

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Agency Activities

MHS&T took part in the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the National Mine Health and Safety Academy. Our mine rescue team held demonstrations at the mine simulation lab.

In October, several staff members took part in the National Mine Safety Instructors Conference at the MSHA Academy. We had an informational booth and distributed

informational packets and study materials.

For Your Information

Bureau of Commerce Picnic

Anyone who enjoys a picnic with good food, games, door-prizes and great fellowship would have had a fun time at the Bureau of Commerce Annual Picnic held September 28th. As part of Public Employees Recognition Week, an estimated three hundred bureau employees attended the picnic. It was held in beautiful Kanawha State Forest, just outside Charleston.

Employees representing MHS&T attended from most regions. Over \$300.00 was raised from a dunking booth for the Red Cross relief efforts. John Scott and Steve Womack won the horseshoe-pitching contest and Doug Conaway won the grand prize drawing. Other employees also won door prizes. The door prizes were all donated by the agencies within the BOC. A Bureau of Commerce team including Commissioner Bailey won the trivia contest. All enjoyed a very good time.

Full Grout Resin Bolts

What should the inspector check when full-grout resin bolts are inserted into the bolt hole and a show or resin cannot be seen as the plate makes contact with the mine roof? Observe the drilling of the next hole, watch for the depth that the hole is being drilled, and watch for indication of cracks. Measure the amount of drill steel inserted into the drill hole or measure the depth of the hole itself, measure the bolt length and compare the bolt length to hole depth. If these measurements were equal, check for separations in the strata during drilling that would allow the resin

to escape the drilled hole. Check the resin cartridge for proper size. If none of the above examinations have located the problem, check the drill bit for proper size. Have a bolt installed without a plate, then measure with wire to find the amount of resin filling the hole. The resin must fill at least 90% of the hole. If these checks have been made and the problem cannot be resolved, stop the use of full grout rods.

Echoes of the Past

First Detachable Rock Drill Bit

A.L. Hawkesworth, master mechanic at Butte, Montana, patented his detachable rock drill bit in 1918. It consisted of a double dovetail taper joint in which the bit was the tenon, and the shank the mortise. This was the era of “slugger drifters” and “wobble tail stoppers”, terms so antique that we do not have a clue as to their meaning. Does anyone out there know?

For Your Health

Calcium Supplements

by Lloyd Collins

No one knows why calcium does this, but calcium supplements may cause constipation. It may be that it causes food to move more slowly through the digestive tract. Luckily it's easy to solve the problem and insure you get the 1000 mg a day you need (1200 to 1500 if you are past menopause, pregnant, or nursing). Just cut back to one 500 mg supplement a day (choose calcium citrate, which seems to be easier on the bowels than calcium carbonate), while upping your intake of calcium-rich foods, including skim milk, yogurt, cheese, and broccoli. Also drink plenty of water and try to fit some aerobic exercise into your schedule every day to stimulate your bowels. On a related matter, calcium supplements vary in the amount of time to be absorbed by your system. It is widely accepted that if your

supplement isn't absorbed within 30 minutes it probably isn't doing it's best for you. An easy way to check your brand of calcium is to place a tablet or capsule in a cup of warm water. After 30 minutes it should be dissolved or soft.

Did You Know?

Self Contained Self Rescuer

An SCSR is a personal self-rescue device and is *not* designed for fighting fire or explorations to determine the extent of a fire or explosion. Yet occasionally we are told of incidents where someone used their SCSR for these purposes. If the fire cannot be approached bare faced from the fresh-air side, the miners should retreat and make the call for trained and properly equipped mine rescue personnel. In a recent training session conducted by a CSE representative, the trainer stated that about once a week they are told of miners using the SCSR for purposes other than self-rescue. The SCSR produces oxygen when your breath contacts a chemical within the unit. The SCSR has only a viewing window for the user to determine if the unit should work properly. When unusually hard work is performed, it is possible for the user to use more oxygen than the SCSR unit can provide. On the other hand, the BG-174A mine rescue apparatus has a lung demand valve that will by-pass the system and deliver a large amount of oxygen when needed during hard work. The mine rescue apparatus is examined on a very sensitive device prior to use to assure proper operation. The SCSR is only a one-hour unit, the mine rescue apparatus is a four-hour unit. Everyone should discourage the use of the SCSR for fire fighting / explorations and encourage the use of mine rescue teams.

How Heat Produces Electricity

by Jim Berry

One method of obtaining electricity is to convert heat into electricity

directly by heating a junction of two dissimilar metals. For example, if an iron wire and a copper wire are twisted together to form a junction, and the junction is heated, an electric charge will result. The amount of charge produced depends on the difference in temperature between the junction and the opposite ends of the two wires. A great temperature difference results in a greater charge. A junction of this type is called a thermo-couple and will produce electricity as long as heat is applied.

Up Close and Personal

MHS&T has hired two new inspectors in November; **Mark Wilfong** and **Charles “Brad” Justice**. Mark is now an underground inspector in the Region 1 Fairmont office, while Brad is an underground inspector in Region 2 Welch office. Welcome aboard!

Charles “Chuck” Webb, district inspector from Region 4, and **Roger Hinkle**, district inspector from Region 1 have received their disability retirement. We wish Chuck and Roger all the best in their retirement.

Congratulations **Jim** and **Marcella Whetsel** who were married in October. Marcella, a native of Argentina, and a student at WVU, met Jim at Church.



Happy Holidays!

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