



MINER DETAILS



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BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

Agency Accomplishments

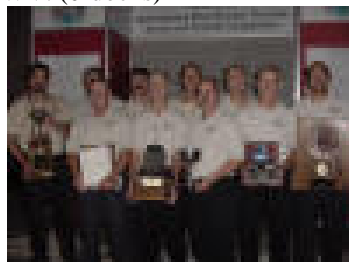
Diesel Update

About 60 pieces of diesel equipment have now been approved for WV mines. Many have been approved in Bob True's district near Mt. Storm in Grant County and in Richard Boggess's district near Logan. Several have also been approved for the Welch region including forklifts, personnel carriers, and tow tractors. Almost all are being sent to new mines being developed or recently opened. One diesel equipment manufacturer in southern Illinois is currently manufacturing WV compliant scoops intended for seams in the 4 to 6 foot range, (comparable in size to a 488 scoop). The first of these are being prepared for new mines in Mason County. Work is almost completed by one Va. diesel manufacturer to provide 12-man diesel personnel carriers for thin seam mines located in Raleigh county. Currently, each region has several well-trained diesel inspectors and has been equipped with one diesel exhaust analyzer. Also, at least one inspector in each region has been specially-trained and equipped with a six-gas data-logging detector to help regulate ambient diesel emissions and respond to emission problems throughout the region.

2005 National Mine Rescue, First Aid, Bench and Pre-shift Contest

The Competition was held in Louisville, Ky. on September 19-23, 2005. West Virginia is home to a 2005 National Champion in each event, first and second place in first aid and BG-4 bench competitions. **First Aid:** a total of 15 teams worked 2 problems in the

competition, 1st and 2nd places are Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Southern Appalachia teams, Wharton, WV, captains Harvey Ferrell, (0-docks) and Jackie Repass, (1-dock). The bench contest had a total of 61 participants. In **Biopak:** 10 contestants (none from WV), 1st place, San Juan Coal Co., Waterflow, NM, Carlos Bueno (5 docks). **BG-4:** 28 contestants, 1st and 2nd places were Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Wharton, WV. Kyle Blair (0-docks) and David Blankenship (10-docks). **BG174A:** 23 contestants, 1st place Emerald Coal Resources, Waynesburg, Pa., Tom Bochna, and 3rd Eastern Associated Coal Corp. Fairview, WV, Harry McGinnis. **Mine Rescue:** 46 teams worked 2 problems and at the end of the first day 10 teams had worked perfect problems with less than two minutes separating the first five teams. The final results are 1st place Pinnacle Mining Company, Pinnacle team, Pineville WV. (0-docks)



Pinnacle Team ,National Champs!

2nd place Consol PA Coal Co., Bailey team, Windridge, Pa. (0-docks) 3rd place Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Southern Appalachia team, Wharton, WV (2-docks). **Combination:** 9 teams competed, 1st place, Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Southern Appalachia team, Wharton, WV (2-docks) and 4th place, Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Federal No.2 team, Fairview, WV (16-docks). **Pre-**

Shift: 58 contestants, 1st place, Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Wharton, WV, Wayne Stafford (0-docks). West Virginia was well represented by all 11 mine rescue teams from across the state.

Did You Know?

Did you know that there is not any conventional type mining being done anywhere in the state of West Virginia? In the year of 2004, over 1.8 million tons of coal was reported as conventional production, however no company was actually mining with conventional equipment. In 2004, 23 mines reported conventional type production; so a contact was made with each of these mine operators. All 23 mines have continuous mining equipment. When asked why the production reports indicated conventional type mining, in each instance the person preparing the report did not understand the difference between conventional and continuous mining. Most of the mine office clerks were using an example that was given to them by the previous person that had been preparing the production report. Each of these mine operators were instructed to enter the proper information in the area of the form for the type of mining being conducted. Our forms were also changed to remove conventional mining as an option. In the future, our statistical reports will no longer show conventional mining as a method in West Virginia.

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• **Up Close and Personal**

West Virginia Quarter

October 14th was a special day for the State of West Virginia. On that day, in a celebration at the State Capital, the US Mint released the first West Virginia Quarters. Vendors and agencies set up booths and Governor Manchin welcomed thousands of school children and adults. The festivities on the Capital grounds also celebrated the restoration of the Capital Dome, which was unveiled in time for the ceremony.



Image Source: US Mint

The West Virginia Quarter is the fifth and final quarter released in 2005. The coins are released in the order that the states were admitted to the union. The West Virginia coin is the 35th to be released in the state series and features the New River Gorge Bridge. The design was selected from over 1,800 entries in 2004. For more information on the West Virginia Quarter and the State Quarters Program go to the US Mint site at www.usmint.gov.

For Your Information

West Virginia Public Employees Combined Campaign

This Combined Campaign for this year kicked off on September 28th. It will run through November 14th. The Department of Commerce has asked all of the agencies to conduct an aggressive and “fun” campaign.

MHS&T has responded with coordinators in each office who have scheduled many activities. Among the fund raising events scheduled (as of now) are Craft Raffles, Hot Dog sales, Bake sales,

Bean dinner, 50/50 Drawing, Poker Run, and Garage sale. Coordinators are Kathy Sloan & Dave Kessler in Charleston, Brenda Medina & John Lucas in Fairmont, Fred Stinson and Beverly Litz in Welch, Bill Tucker in Oak Hill and Willy Barker & Steve Cox in Danville.

All cash proceeds from our events have been designated to go to Hurricane Relief efforts through the Red Cross. Contact any coordinator for additional information.

Leave Balance Clarification

For the past several years employee leave balances have been emailed to each employee.

We are now forwarding to the regional office employee leave balance and they will have the report placed in their mail box.

If you have any questions regarding your leave balance, please feel free to contact Marti Sigmon in the Charleston Office.

Pocket Size Lawbooks

New pocket size lawbooks with underground regulations are now available. This new 2005 edition includes a more comprehensive list of the regulations, and includes diesel regulations. Also, the pocket lawbook is small enough to fit a shirt pocket and includes note keeping pages front and back as requested by our inspectors.

Up Close and Personal

Consolidation Coal Co. hosted a tour July 22, 2005 of their Loveridge Mine in Marion County for personnel involved with the MHS&T Abandoned Mine Map Project at the Fairmont Regional Office.



Pictured from right to left: Teresa Fulmer (Map Tech. And Team Leader), Mark Wilfong, Assist. Insp. At Large) Wes Brown (Map Tech – student intern) and Albert Lechiara, MHST Mine Inspector.

Not pictured, but on the trip: **Tony Golden** (former Map Tech. – student intern) and Monte Hieb Chief Engineer, MHST. Also not pictured is **Daniel Nulph**, who joined the project as a full time employee on July 25. Dan comes to us on the heels of a 14 month tour of duty in Iraq and has been doing a terrific job assisting in our abandoned mine mapping efforts. Dan and his wife Laura, reside in Morgantown, WV.

Wes Brown is an energetic student intern in his senior year of electrical engineering at Fairmont State University. He is hard worker and brings an engineering perspective to the job.

Teresa Fullmer is the Team Leader of our mapping efforts. She has been a full-time employee with MHS&T since July 18, 2005. Teresa, resides with her 8 year old son, Nikolai in Masontown WV. She has impressed everyone with, among other things, her organizational skills and attention to detail.



Enjoy the Beauty of Fall in West Virginia

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

