



# MINER DETAILS



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## BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

### From the Director's Office WV Records 4<sup>th</sup> Mining Fatality

A continuous miner helper received fatal head injuries while assisting on an equipment move crew. The boom of a 14-10 continuous mining machine hit the mine roof while the machine passed over a ledge in the mine floor, injuring the helper. The victim had not participated in previous equipment moves and was a newly certified miner. The foreman in charge of the move was operating the remote controlled miner when the accident occurred.

Everyone should be sure no person is allowed near the tail boom and ripper head area while a mining machine is in operation as outlined in 22A-2-49(d). Provisions of equipment move regulations should be reviewed with all employees before participating in moving equipment. The foreman in charge of the move should have no other duties other than to supervise the equipment move crew. It might be a good idea to have persons wear reflective vests when participating on an equipment move crew.

Doug Conaway, Director

### Agency Accomplishments

#### What's new in roof control?

A controversial new off-center head roof bolt has been introduced to the industry. At a roof control seminar in May 2000, Fosroc, Inc. and Excel Mining Systems, Inc. introduced a fully grouted roof bolt with the head slightly off center of the shaft. The new bolt head is designed to enhance the mixing of the resin and reduce the "glove fingering" that commonly occurs when 5/8" rods are inserted into 1" drill holes. Glove fingering is the plastic barrier between the resin and wall of the drill hole. However, a Jennmar Corp. representative stated that Fosroc had asked them

to make a roof bolt with the off center head. Jennmar had refused and felt that when they had a bolt in the field with an off center head they would collect and destroy the bolt as a defective bolt. They felt if the head was off center the load might not be distributed evenly and might result in a premature failure of the bolt. Jennmar felt that if the resin manufactures had a resin mix problem then they should fix the resin. It should also be said that no one has been able to prove that glove fingering has contributed to any roof falls. A big problem is that there is not a good way to detect "glove fingering" except after roof falls. Let's keep an eye out for broken off roof bolt heads in the field, as the off-center head bolts show up in the mines.

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### WV State Mine Rescue Contest

The recent mine accident in Pennsylvania vividly showed the need for well trained mine rescue teams. Mine rescue contests are an important aspect of that training. The State Mine Rescue Contest was held July 17 -18. A new segment of the meet was the pre-shift contest. Results of the WV Contest: *Mine Rescue*, U.S. Steel Pinnacle; *First Aid*, Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Southern Appalachia; *Bench*: Drummond Co., Inc., Shoal Creek; *Combination*: Eastern Associated Coal Corp., Southern Appalachia;

*Pre-Shift Contest*: Greg Neil, Independence Coal.

### New Pre-shift Examiner Contest

A new pre-shift examiner contest was held during both mine rescue contests this year. A first for West Virginia, the contest was deemed a huge success. After mine rescue contests finished, the fields were again set up as a different working section. Then contestants were given 30 minutes to make a complete pre-shift exam as judges observed their procedures. We experienced a few moments when we were wondering if things were going to work out, however all went well with both contests. Although a similar contest is normally held in other states, many of the participants agreed our contest was well run and stood out as something really exciting.



Pre-Shift Trophy 2002

### State Fair

MHST participation in the WV State Fair was a homecoming of sorts. Our booth was relocated to the WV Building for the first time

since our return to the fair. Most other state agencies booths are housed in this building. Our booth featured a grill with safety tips and a model showing how coal goes from mine to preparation plant to electricity. We also had posters describing the dangers of abandoned mines. Once again our location created demand for the fans we gave away. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked the fair and to Gary McComas for organizing our display.

### Proposed Regulations – Contractor Reporting

A proposed regulation, Title 56, Series 10 has been proposed and sent to the industry for comment. The proposed regulation governs reporting requirements for independent contractors. The language of the regulation requires monthly reporting by each permitted independent contractor. The report must include the mine site(s) where the contractor operated that month, the number of contractor employees on the site, employee hours, number of days on site and the number of contractor injuries. The comment period for this regulation runs until October 1, 2002 when a hearing will be held. A final version of the regulation will be issued following the comment period.

### Did You Know?

#### Mine Maps

The recent incident of the mine in Pennsylvania cutting into an adjacent, abandoned mine highlights the critical importance of accurate mine maps. Nationally and in West Virginia a renewed emphasis has been placed on the acquisition and preservation of mine maps. You will probably hear more on this subject in the weeks and months to come. In the meantime if you are aware of any such maps please contact our Charleston Office so we can make arrangements to add them to our Map Archive.

#### Health Watch

According to WV Bureau of Public Health statistics, 44% of adults in WV get no leisure-time physical

activity at all. Nearly half of our state's residents do nothing resembling physical activity.

Maybe some West Virginians don't need to be physically active. They don't want to have less heart disease, less high blood pressure, improved cholesterol levels, and better blood sugar/diabetes control. What would they do with all the time they now spend visiting friends and family during their hospitalizations?

### West Virginia Mining Trivia

Can you name the first commercial mine in Raleigh County? Answer: According to our records, it was the Royal Mine opened in 1886. It was located on the New River. (This question came from a request we recently answered.)

### For Your Information

**Fire Boss** The term "Fire Boss" or "Fireman" was the name given to the miner who attached a lit candle to the end of a pole and then moved it high into the working places to check for methane gas. The gas would ignite and burn out of the atmosphere. Editor's note: I'll bet it made a lot of men bald.

### Timely Web Sites

With school just starting for this year, we thought the following web sites would be very useful for students (and their parents or grand-parents). [www.refdesk.com](http://www.refdesk.com), [www.libraryspot.com](http://www.libraryspot.com), and [www.homeworkspot.com](http://www.homeworkspot.com).

### Life Insurance Options

An open enrollment window for life insurance upgrades or changes will be held September 25<sup>th</sup> through October 25<sup>th</sup>. Expect to receive a packet in the mail from PEIA soon. The packet will also list a premium increase scheduled to take effect in January for life insurance.

### What's Cookin'?

#### Chocolate Chip Scones (Scottish Biscuits)

2 cups self-rising flour  
3 tbs. sugar  
½ cup shortening (may use butter or part butter)

½ cup milk (skim works well)  
1 large egg  
1 tsp. vanilla extract  
¾ cup semisweet chocolate chips

Pre-heat your oven to 400 degrees. Combine the flour and sugar. Using a pastry blender or fork, cut in the shortening until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. In a small bowl, combine the milk, eggs, and vanilla. Add to the crumb mixture along with the chocolate chips, blending with a fork until the mixture clings together and forms a soft dough.

Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead gently 5 or 6 times. Roll the dough as if you were baking traditional biscuits. Cut with a biscuit cutter and place the scones one inch apart on a baking sheet or in a baking pan. Pierce the tops with the tines of a fork, bake for 10 to 20 min. until golden brown, serve hot.

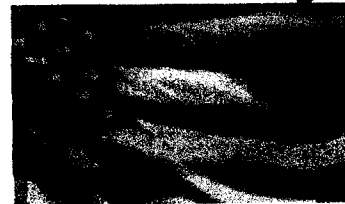
### Up Close and Personal

**Willis Webb**, retired electrical inspector passed away August 2002. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

We would like to welcome two new employees:

**Gerald Ellison**, Surface Inspector in the Oak Hill office hired 4/16/02.  
**Brian Ellis**, Surface Inspector in the Danville office, hired 7/6/02.

### We Will Never Forget



**Sept. 11th**

*This newsletter is published bimonthly by the WV Office of MHS&T Governor Bob Wise Doug Conaway, Director Contact Person: Dave Kessler Visit the agency's website at:*

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

