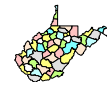




MINER DETAILS



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September 2004

BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

Agency Accomplishments

Southern West Virginia Mine Rescue Contest

Eighteen teams from five states took part in the contest this year. In the team competition, the Consol Energy Buchanan team took first place. The Jim Walter Resources No. 1 team came in first in the First Aid contest. The Federal No. 2 team of Eastern Associated Coal Corp. took first in the Combination. As for the individual contests, Steve Gravley of Consol's Shoemaker mine came in first in the BG174A Bench competition; and David Stepp of Massey Energy Co.'s East KY team won the BG4 Bench title. The Preshift Contest was won by Charles Conn of Massey Energy Co.'s East KY team. Congratulations to all those who participated!

Electronic Payments

Soon MHST will begin offering its customers an opportunity to pay for services by credit / debit card. This is an on-line payment system offered to state agencies by the WV State Treasurer's office. According to data provided by that office, their costs to process a single check averages nearly six dollars per check, while an electronic payment is nearly cost free. Our agency submits thousands of checks each year, so even if we have ten percent electronic payments, there will be significant savings. Soon we will have a link from our web page to a secure web site developed for us by the Treasurer's Office. Payments will be accepted for publication and copy orders, certifications, permit fees and assessments. The Regional offices will be contacted as this service becomes available.

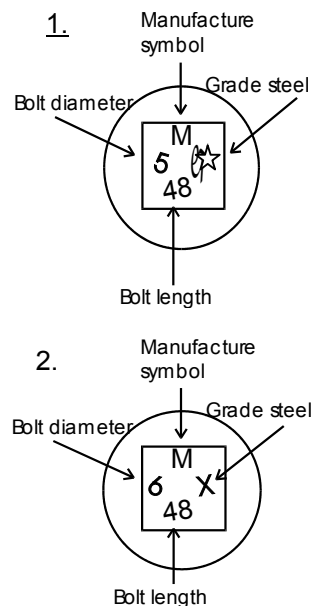
Inside this Newsletter:

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- Did You Know?
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- Up Close and Personal

Did You Know?

American Society for Testing and Materials

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) sets the standards for chemical, mechanical, and dimensional manufacturing of roof and rock bolts and accessories used in ground support systems. The current designation is ASTM F 432-95. Each roof bolt head is stamped with the bolt length, grade, diameter, and a manufacturer's symbol. Each manufacturer uses a symbol that will identify the plant that made the bolt or the accessory. Drawing 1 is a grade 40, 5/8" dia., 48" length bolt. Drawing 2 is a grade 75, 3/4" dia., 48" length bolt.



Below is a quick reference for size and strength of common roof bolts.

Roof Bolt Marking

ASTM F432-95

(Mandatory compliance after 6/22/99, may be used before).

Grade	Diameter	Designation
40	3/4" and larger	None
55	5/8" and larger	☆
60	5/8" and larger	△
75	5/8" and larger	X
100	5/8" and larger	□

Notes:

1. Bolt diameters stamped in 1/8" increments, e.g. 5 for 5/8", 6 for 3/4", etc.
2. For deformed bar, number is placed within a circle, e.g. ⑤
3. Grades 40 and 60 for deformed bar only.

Color codes are used to indicate bolt length for threaded bars like the tensioned rebar type bolts. Yellow-36", Green-42", no color-48" (used the most), Red-60", Blue-72", Orange-84", White-96". When using multiple piece bolts the piece with the bolt head will be stamped. The extensions are not required to be marked. Resin cartridge tube boxes will be marked with tube length, bar or bolt diameter, wall thickness, weight per inch, and hole diameter with which tube is to be used. These are only a few of the standards applied to roof and rock bolts. For more details see ASTM - F432-95.

Revised Underground Foreman Guides

Revised Underground Foreman Study Guides are now available. These new guides include updated photographs, sample forms and several situational scenarios.

Newsletters On-line

Not only are the current issues of Miner Details available on our website, but all previous editions have now been posted. We also have an index of the major articles. Go to the Newsletter link on our

main page and check out some of the old issues.

This is your Newsletter

We welcome questions or suggestions for articles you would like to see addressed the Newsletter. Contact Clark, Wayne or Dave with your ideas.

For Your Information

General Revenue Reductions

As all of us are aware, our state has struggled financially the last several fiscal years. Most agencies have had to endure cuts and or reductions to their general revenue accounts. Fortunately, MHST has been exempted from those cuts. Once again this year the Governor has requested agencies reduce their general revenue accounts. Again, MHST and its boards are one of the fortunate agencies to be exempted from these reductions.

Diesel Update

Expect to see several diesel forklifts inside underground coal mines beginning in the 4th quarter of this year. These forklifts are being manufactured and supplied by A.L. Lee Corporation with shipment to several mines expected in mid-September. The forklifts have a 4 cylinder 2011 Deutz engine with a complete approved emission package including a silicon dioxide high-efficiency filter system.

Safety Enhancements at River Loadouts

In a recent *Miner Details* article we discussed some of the efforts one company, Kanawha River Terminals (KRT), is implementing to successfully reduce hazards at river coal loading facilities. We showed you to the "smash box" which is stored close-to-hand at the river edge of the dock, ready to be thrown into the water between the coal barge and the dock barge. The aluminum box floats and is strong enough to prevent the barge from closing against a person who may have fallen into the area of danger. In addition to the smash box, each person wears a life vest that is equipped with a Man Overboard

Alert System that sounds an alarm in the tug boat and in the loadout operator's station. Crews are trained to immediately stop all barge and boat movements when a man overboard alarms sounds. After a quick look into the water, the smash box is thrown into the water to keep the narrow space open between the barges while the person is being rescued. Management and employees at KRT continue to identify hazards at their workplace and continue to develop unique solutions to counter those hazards. They have successfully reduced hazards by brightly painting barge access covers, installing devices to prevent snap-back of the wire ropes used to guide the barge being loaded, salt/sand barrels to treat dock/barge walkways in inclement weather, reflective suspenders for persons who must be walking near traffic areas. Go to our web page and click on River Loadout Safety to learn more about this safety system and where the equipment can be obtained.



Clarence Dishmon, a new inspector working in the Oak Hill region, is shown wearing a life vest that is equipped with a Man Overboard Alert System

Smash Boxes
Parson's Machine Co.
Ashford, WV
(304) 836-5612
contact Roger Parsons

Man Overboard Alert Systems
Emerald Marine Products
Seattle, Washington
1-800-426-4201
(206) 781-9450
contact Page Read

Helpful Tip

Be a trouble-shooter. When you run into a problem, try to think of

at least two solutions before you take that problem to your boss. It shows that you're a thinker and problem-solver, as well as a doer.

Up Close and Personal

Former inspectors **Rush Fields** and **Richard Decker** passed away recently. Rush was an inspector who worked out of both the Danville and Welch offices. Richard was a former electrical inspector in the Welch Region.

Colin Simmons from the Fairmont Region is recovering from recent surgery. Also **Art Shumate** and **Lloyd Collins** are back to work following surgery.

Congratulations to **Austin Sigmon**, son of **Marti Sigmon** for being selected this summer to participate in the Junior State Trooper Program. Only 38 high school students were selected from throughout the state to attend this camp at the State Police Academy.

Clarence Dishman has been hired as an underground inspector in the Oak Hill region. Welcome Clarence!



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Visit the agency's website at:

www.wvminesafety.org

