DIVISIONS
ENERGY
GAS AND OIL
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Post Office Drawer 900
3405 Mountain Empire Road
Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219-0900
(276) 523-8100
www.dmme.virginia.gov

MEMORANDUM DM-14-07

TO: All Coal Mine Operators

FROM: M. Randy Moore
Marshall (Randy) Moore, Chief

SUBJECT: ***Mine Incident Response, Rescue, and Recovery Plan***

DATE: December 1, 2014

In accordance with §45.1-161.77F of the *Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia*, an updated copy of the annual Division of Mines' (DM) Mine Incident Response, Rescue, and Recovery Plan (PLAN) is attached (and will be published on the DM Web Site) for your information and review with all appropriate mine personnel. This plan addresses areas in which the DM will need to coordinate with mine operators during a mine emergency. The "Mine Emergency Notification Sheet", included in the attached PLAN, should be completed and posted in a conspicuous location at the mine to be readily available should an emergency arise.

Distribution of the PLAN is scheduled annually to coincide with the "Winter Alert" period when the coal industry typically reviews the increased hazards for mine fires and explosions that develop with seasonal changes. You are encouraged to review the winter alert measures and the procedures for emergency response (developed specifically for your operation) with your staff and all miners.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this plan, please contact your DM Inspector or me at (276) 523-8226 / Marshall.Moore@dmme.virginia.gov. Thank you.

djm
Attachment

Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy

Division of Mines

Mine Incident Response, Rescue, and Recovery Plan

December 1, 2014

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Division of Mines

Mine Incident Response, Rescue, and Recovery Plan

December 1, 2014

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INTRODUCTION

Mine incidents are unforeseen and unplanned emergencies that require prompt action by individuals at the mine and by Division of Mines (DM) personnel. Mine incidents are, by definition, an emergency that can include fires, ignitions, explosions, entrapments, or inundations. Familiarization with the key role of Incident Commander, notification protocols, and the Mine Emergency Evacuation and Response Plan is of the utmost importance.

The intent of DM's "Mine Incident Response, Rescue, and Recovery Plan" is to prepare DM personnel to effectively carry out their role in the event of a mine incident. This role is to assure that notification, response, rescue, and recovery activities are conducted safely and efficiently, while providing for:

- Personal safety;
- The safety of others involved in response, rescue, and recovery;
- Establishment of a unified command structure on-scene;
- A safe and expedient means of locating and evacuating miners affected by the incident;
- Timely recovery of victims in the mine; and
- Timely and efficient mine recovery to enable a safe production restart.

DM personnel will familiarize themselves with the details of the plan and the responsibilities associated with their position, at least annually.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The receiver of the initial notification of a mine emergency will document pertinent information and immediately initiate the internal emergency response process by notifying the Area Mine Inspector Supervisor, Chief, Assistant Chief, or Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC). The assigned Mine Inspector or an Emergency Response Team (ERT) member will respond and verify circumstances.

2. The Division of Mines (DM) will verify any rumor of a mine emergency. If communication systems are inoperable, the information will be verified according to DM policies and procedures.

3. The area Mine Inspector Supervisor will notify the Chief and/or Assistant Chief and the ERC. The ERC will coordinate notification of other DM personnel for response to the scene of the emergency or for stand-by status.

4. The ERC or area ERT Leader will respond promptly to the scene and initiate the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) policies and procedures with assistance from other DM staff.

5. The Chief or Assistant Chief will maintain overall responsibility for the direction of all DM activities during the emergency period. The Chief and/or Assistant Chief, in communications with the ERT Coordinator and Mine Inspector Supervisors, will coordinate activities of the ERT members and Mine Inspector Supervisors.

6. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) protocols will be initiated with the first DM representative on-scene. A Unified Command Center will be established, along with other key centers or outposts. The first DM representative on-scene will assume the Incident Commander role and cooperate with company officials and other responding agencies.

7. In consultation with the ERC and on-scene Incident Commander, the Mine Inspector Supervisor or Assistant Chief will notify and dispatch any additional DM personnel needed at the emergency scene.

8. The Chief or Assistant Chief will contact and brief the DMME Deputy Director and Public Relations Manager.

9. The Chief or Assistant Chief will coordinate mine emergency response activities with various Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) officials, mine operators, and representatives of mine labor.

10. The DMME Public Relations Manager will be responsible for communicating with the media, MSHA, mine operators, and other representatives regarding media releases.

11. A comprehensive record of activities will be maintained throughout the emergency period. The first DM representative to arrive at the scene will be responsible for maintaining a record of activities until relieved of this task.

DUTIES

Special duties may be assigned to DM personnel at the emergency scene to assist in maintaining control and coordinating rescue and recovery activities. The assignments will be coordinated with the ERT members, MSHA, mine operator, and representatives of the miners.

1. The following assignments may be made to DM staff to assist with rescue and recovery efforts:

    - Electrical Coordinator
    - Engineering and Planning Coordinator
    - Incident Command Center Coordinator
    - Joint Information Officer
    - Logistics Coordinator
    - Mine Rescue Team Briefing/Debriefing Coordinator
    - Safety Liaison
    - Site Security Coordinator
    - Surface Coordinator
    - Ventilation Coordinator

    These coordinators will be responsible for applicable functions and record keeping associated with pertinent rescue activities.

2. The emergency scene will be secured and only those persons involved with and supporting the rescue and recovery will be authorized in the area.

3. An accurate, written record of all rescue and recovery activities will be maintained by a DM representative during the entire rescue and recovery effort.

4. A check-in/check-out system for personnel entering and leaving the mine will be established and maintained at the Incident Command Center.

5. DM Technical Specialists will be available to assist with emergency efforts in the areas of mine mapping, drilling, ventilation, roof, and electricity. In regards to Small Mine Safety Service (SMSS) mines, SMSS personnel will also be available.

6. Surface and underground mine atmosphere monitoring stations will be established and monitored by DM personnel with a record maintained for all tests and samples taken.

7. Regular media briefings will be coordinated by the Joint Information Officer and Unified Command Center personnel. The DMME Public Relations Manager will represent DMME (unless otherwise assigned by him/her).

The Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy
Division of Mines
Mine Incident Response, Rescue, and Recovery Plan

NOTIFICATION

The success of incident, response, rescue, and recovery during a mine emergency is greatly influenced by the initial notification and the accuracy of information received by the *"first point of contact"*. It is important that the first person at DM to be notified of a mine incident shall obtain and document as much detail as is available so appropriate personnel can be accurately informed and respond accordingly. This information should include:

- Name of person reporting emergency
- Has the subject mine initiated their mine emergency response and evacuation plan?
  ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Obtain one or more call-back numbers to ensure continued status updates as DM personnel are responding.
- **Company Name:**
  Mine Name and Index No.:
- Mine location (county, community; state or county route number).
- Mine telephone number (if different from the call-back numbers).
- Date and time of incident
- Nature of incident (briefly describe the incident).
- Are all miners and mine personnel accounted for? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If NO,
What is the known condition of personnel involved:

- Number of fatalities?
- Number of miners injured?

- Number of miners unaccounted for? ☐
- Have all miners been evacuated? ☐
- Last known location of miners? ☐
- Time of last contact? ☐
- Is transportation available from miners' last known location? ☐
- Are escape routes blocked from miners' last known location? ☐
- Are attempts being made to contact missing miners at least every 15 minutes?

  ☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES

- Number of miners evacuated? ☐
- What escape routes are being utilized? ☐
- Mode of transportation for evacuation? ☐
- Are attempts being made to contact missing miners at least every 15 minutes?

  ☐ Yes ☐ No

What incident activities are on-going underground:

- Fire fighting attempts? ☐ (How many miners responding? ☐)
- Entrapment recovery attempts? ☐ (How many miners responding? ☐)
- Responding to mine system alarm and unknown event? ☐ (How many miners responding? ☐)

What is the status of the following mine systems:

- Mine fan(s)? ☐
- How has the incident affected the mine ventilation circuits?

  ☐
- Has the incident affected mine drainage or pumping activities? ☐
- How has the incident affected the mine electrical circuits (surface and underground)?

  ☐

  (Has power circuits underground been interrupted? ☐)

- Has transportation from any section to the surface been blocked? ☐
- Are primary and secondary escapeways open and clear? ☐
- Is the mine-wide monitoring or miner tracking system functional? ☐

In addition to the initial incident, what other hazards are known or have developed:

Notifications:

☐ Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) (911).
Explain needs for Sheriff's Department, State Police, road blocks, and route numbers.
Number of officers requested for site security ☐. Fire and rescue needs ☐.
Resources needed from VDEM:

☐ Federal Agencies (MSHA: 1-800-746-1553)
☐ State Agencies (Other State Agencies)
☐ Mine Rescue Teams:

COMPANY	Teams	Telephone Number	Cell Number
CONSOL Buchanan Mining Co., LLC	Black & Red	276-498-8216 276-498-7056-Station	304-920-0794
Lone Mountain Processing, Inc.	Lone Mountain	606-837-2202-Ext 14 276-383-4455-Office	606-909-1412
Maxxim Shared Services, LLC	Blue & Gray	276-679-8656-Office	276-206-6749
Southern Coal Corp. – VA Operations	VA Operations	606-493-7530	276-383-4959
SunCoke Energy	Black & Gray	276-935-8810, X-3347 276-498-4630	606-854-4041
Virginia Small Operators Mine Rescue	Silver & Gold	276-395-2961	276-395-2961
Wellmore Coal Company	Red & Gray	276-530-7411,X-7738 276-935-5870	276-971-1244

☐ Company Security: ☐

Continued contact:

Establish a specific call-back number and time (within 15 to 30 minutes) in order to continue a status update for responding DM personnel and management.

Present status of situation:

Once notification of a mine incident is received by any DM representative and the above key information recorded, it is important to immediately activate DM's mine incident notification plan:

- ☐ DM Chief (276) 523-8226 or Assistant Chief (276) 523-8231
- ☐ DM Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – (276) 523-9693
- ☐ Area Emergency Response Team Leader (ERT): Big Stone Gap – Danny Mann – 276-523-8236 or 276-467-2176; Lebanon – Terry Ratliff – 276-415-9650 or 276-498-7196
- ☐ Mine Inspector Supervisor: Big Stone Gap Office – Sammy Fleming – (276) 523-8228; Carroll Green (276) 523-8232; Lebanon Office - Opie McKinney – (276) 415-9676

It is essential that DM be represented as soon as possible at the site of any mine emergency and assist in establishing a Unified Command Center. DM staff, including the ERT personnel, are required to respond to any emergency scene in accordance with the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia §45.1-161.80 and DM Emergency Response Procedures. The first designated representative to arrive at the emergency scene will assume responsibility for the DMME until relieved or assigned other duties. Policies of the DMME including the Emergency Response Procedures, Rescue and Recovery Plan, and Media Relations Plan will be complied with throughout the emergency.

Attached are two forms developed to assist Virginia Coal Mine Operators in the event of a mine emergency:

- Mine Emergency Data
- Mine Emergency Notification Sheet

MINE EMERGENCY DATA

Company Name: _____

Mine Name/
Index Number: _____

Mine Location: _____

Mine Telephone Number: _____

Nature of Emergency: _____

Name of Person Reporting Emergency: _____

Date of Emergency Notification: _____

Time of Emergency Notification: _____

Approximate Time of Incident: _____

Degree of Seriousness: _____

Names or Number of Injured and/or Persons Unaccounted For: _____

_____

_____

_____

Brief Description of Incident: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Present Status of Mine, Ventilation, and Electrical Systems: _____

_____

_____

_____

Present Status of Situation: _____

_____

_____

_____

MINE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SHEET

Company Name	
Mine Name/Index No.	
Federal I.D. No.	
Rescue Squad Telephone No.	
County Sheriff Department Telephone No.	
Mine Rescue Coverage Telephone No.	
VA State Police Telephone No.	
Air Ambulance Telephone No.	
Flight Landing Coordinates	
Mine Coordinates	

Company / Mine Officials	**Phone Numbers**

Employee Representative

Virginia Division of Mines	**Office Hours**	**After Hours**
M. Randy Moore, Chief	(276) 523-8226	(276) 393-1409
Michael Willis, Assistant Chief	(276) 523-8231	(423) 416-6242
Chris Whitt, Emergency Response Coord.	(276) 523-9693	(276) 202-5547
Carroll Green, Mine Inspector Supervisor	(276) 523-8232	(276) 393-0747
Opie McKinney, Mine Inspector Supervisor	(276) 415-9676	(304) 887-4744
Sammy Fleming, Mine Inspector Supervisor	(276) 523-8228	(276) 926-8670

Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA)

MSHA, National Accident Reporting Hotline	1-800-746-1553
MSHA, Norton Field Office, District 5	(276) 679-0230