



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

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

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COMMUNICATION MEMORANDUM - NO. 03 -2020

TO: All Licensed Operators

FROM: James P. Skorupa, Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James P. Skorupa".

DATE: May 21, 2020

SUBJECT: First Aid Training

Due to the COVID-19 Virus Pandemic, Governor Northam declared a state of emergency in March 2020 that imposed restrictions on state agencies. Recently, the Governor issued phased guidelines for re-opening the state. During this time, the Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) suspended teaching "live" classes, which has affected DMM's ability to provide First Aid training required for DMM certifications.

During the COVID-19 emergency and re-opening phases, DMM will accept nationally-recognized online First Aid courses (e.g., National Safety Council, American Red Cross, American Heart Association, etc.) to meet the first aid training requirements for DMM Surface Foreman, Underground Foreman, Surface Blaster, Underground Blaster, and Mineral Mining Electrician certifications.

DMM normally provides First Aid, CPR, and AED training classes through National Safety Council (NSC) certified instructors using NSC guidelines, format, and instructional materials. Recently, the NSC has extended expiration dates for first aid and CPR completion cards for 120 days. Here is the NSC's language regarding this extension: "**Temporary Extension of Expiration Dates for First Aid and CPR Completion Cards** In light of the continuing health crisis and the difficulty in providing training to individuals with current first aid and CPR cards, the NSC is extending the expiration dates of all first aid and CPR completion cards by 120 days. Ultimately, the acceptance of this extension is at the discretion of the individual employer or regulatory agency."

DMM will resume providing in person classes for our operators and mine workers when we are confident we are able to provide a safe environment for our instructors and students in accordance with all safety precautions and re-opening guidance.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Stewart at jeff.stewart@dmme.virginia.gov or 434-951-6315. You may also contact your local Area Mine Inspector. Additional contact information can be found at <https://dmme.virginia.gov>.