



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

Washington Building, 8th Floor
1100 Bank Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-3402
(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237
www.dmme.virginia.gov

For Immediate Release
November 7, 2013
Contact: Mike Abbott (276) 523-8146
Cell: (276) 356-3405

Virginia Mining Agency Will Use \$50,000 Grant to Create Coal Mine Safety Training Video

Big Stone Gap, VA – When an accident occurs in an underground coal mine, how those employees working at the outside of the mine react to the emergency can significantly impact the effectiveness of critical mine rescue response. Virginia’s Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) is developing a training video to help ensure miners working underground and at the surface of a deep mine are properly prepared in the event of an underground emergency.

Fifty-thousand dollars in funding for the training video was recently awarded to DMME by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) through a Brookwood-Sago Grant, one of five grants totaling \$582,804. DMME used a Brookwood-Sago grant in 2011 to produce a video focused on training miners located underground how to react to an emergency. That video won first place and the Grand Prize in MSHA’s 17th Annual Training Materials Competition.

“We hope to capitalize on the success of our first video, “Lead the Way,” to produce this companion training video that will link the importance of an organized and rapid response above ground to the efforts taking place underground in an emergency,” said DMME Director Conrad T. Spangler, III. The new video will cover topics such as initial notifications of state, federal and mine officials; coordinating the evacuation of miners underground; gathering information such as fan and gas readings; and on-scene communications and actual response with mine emergency responders.

“Alpha Natural Resources has agreed to host the production of the video at their new training center, the Running Right Leadership Academy, in Julian, WV. This location provides us with a great location to shoot the video and also allows us to demonstrate one of the types of training that eventually will be available to the mining industry at the Academy,” said DMME Division of Mines Chief Randy Moore.

- MORE -

DMME anticipates having the new video complete and ready for distribution in June 2014. Copies of the video will be distributed by DMME to all MSHA grant recipients, mine rescue trainers, instructors and colleges throughout the nation.

The Brookwood-Sago grant program originated with a provision in the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006. The grants memorialize 13 miners who died in twin 2001 mine explosions in Brookwood, Ala., and 12 miners killed in 2006 by carbon monoxide poisoning after a lightning-induced methane explosion at the Sago Mine in West Virginia. Public and non-profit entities are eligible for the Brookwood-Sago grants, which are to be “used to establish and implement education and training programs, or to develop training materials for employers and miners, concerning safety and health topics in mines.”

###