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SunCoke Energy Black Team Wins Annual Virginia Mining Institute's Mine Rescue & Safety Contest

Blacksburg, VA –SunCoke Energy Black Mine Rescue team took top honors in the Virginia Mining Institute's Mine Rescue Competition held August 5th-7th. The competition was held at the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Community Center. The rescue and safety contest was sponsored by the Virginia Mining Institute (VMI). The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Ohio mine officials, West Virginia mine officials, Brick Street as well as several volunteers came to help at the event.

The teams competed to conduct rescue and recovery operations in a staged mine disaster scenario. Team members wore full mine rescue gear, including oxygen breathing apparatus, to determine underground mine conditions, construct ventilation controls and locate and extract accident "victims".

The teams were judged on their thoroughness in recording mine conditions on a map as they advanced into the "mine" and their ability to identify and respond to hazards that could endanger the team or trapped miners.

Virginia Mining Institute President Don Hager presented trophies to the winning individuals and teams. Ha Fger had this to say about the competition, "While we hope these guys never have to use their skills, there is no better way to prepare them for any possible situation. They should be

admired for taking it upon themselves to be those responsible for their fellow miners in an emergency.”

Grand Champion of Mine Rescue: SunCoke Energy Black

1st Place Mine Rescue Team Day 1: SunCoke Energy Black

2nd Place Team Day 1: Consol PA Coal Bailey White

1st Place Mine Rescue Team Day 2: Coal River Energy Coal River

2nd Place Mine Rescue Team Day 2: SunCoke Energy Black

Combination 1st Place Team- Alpha Natural Resources Southern West Virginia

Combination 2nd Place Team- Arch Coal Lone Mountain

Bench 1st Place: BG4- Josh Richardson, Consol Energy Buchanan Black

Bench 1st Place: BioMarine 240R- Benjamin Milam, Coal River Energy Coal River

Anemometer Grand Champion: SunCoke Energy Black

Pre-Shift: Eric Ferrell, Coal River Energy Coal River

First Aid: Alpha Natural Resources Southern West Virginia

Mine Rescue Teams: Wellmore Coal Gray Team, Wellmore Coal Red Team, Consol Buchanan Black Team, Consol Buchanan Red Team, Arch Lone Mountain Team, Maxxim Shared Services Blue Team, Maxxim Shared Services Gray Team, Suncoke Energy Black Team, Suncoke Energy Gray Team, Coal River Energy Team, Consol Energy of PA BMX Blue Team, Consol Energy of PA BMX Gray Team, Alpha Natural Resources Southern Kentucky Team, Alpha Natural Resources Brooks Run South Black Team, Alpha Natural Resources Southern West Virginia Team, Consol Bailey Blue Team, Consol Bailey White Team, Peabody Energy Wildcat Hills Team and Prairie State Generating Company Lively Grove Team.

The teams came from Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Kentucky.

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