



# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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## **“No Way Out” Coal Mine Safety Video Wins National Award**

**Big Stone Gap, VA** – The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy took top honors at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy Training Material Competition with the Division of Mines’ newest mine safety video, “No Way Out”.

The video was developed to train all underground coal miners, mine rescue teams, mine rescue trainers, and underground instructors in how to safely escape from an underground coal mine during an emergency.

“No Way Out” was produced by DMME and Bristol, Virginia based Alpha Natural Resources. It was also awarded Grand Prize by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) for being the Best Overall Entry.

The purpose of the video is to demonstrate real, life-threatening situations that miners may be confronted with while attempting to escape from an underground mine emergency. Mine Chief, Randy Moore, believes sharing this video with coal miners will save lives. “The situation featured in this movie was real-life for me. Unfortunately, these things can happen. But, fortunately, we are more prepared with training opportunities such as “No Way Out” and believe that coal miners will overcome tough situations.”

“It was a privilege for Alpha Natural Resources to assist Virginia DMME on this award-winning training video for use by all coal miners and mine rescue teams. This video will go well beyond the border of Virginia in training and preparation. A special thanks to DMME and Alpha affiliated miners, management and mine rescue team members for their passion for mine safety and emergency preparedness in developing this video.” said Brian Keaton, Alpha Natural Resources Vice President for Safety and Health.

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Director Conrad Spangler noted this video meets a strategic goal of DMME. “Our department’s first purpose is to keep workers in the industries we regulate safe. There is no better way to prepare those on the job for an emergency situation than to bring it to life. We hope this reaches coal miners across the nation and gives them the knowledge they need to react properly”.

DMME Division of Mines staff worked with representatives of Alpha Natural Resources’ Enterprise #9A mines and the following mine rescue teams: Maxxim Shared Services, Coal River East and Southern Kentucky. Alpha’s Southern Kentucky Division Safety/Mine Rescue Coordinator Ronnie Biggerstaff, Kentucky Department for Natural Resources’ Division of Mine Safety, the Mine Safety and Health Administration and Daniel Springen of DMPI also worked closely with DMME to capture a realistic story for an important safety message.

DMME Deputy Director, Butch Lambert, noted the teamwork in this production. “This is the prime example of how much those in the regulatory agencies and on the producing side care about safety. When we work together we can accomplish great things and keep our miners coming home to their families.”

DMME employees who worked on the project included Division of Mines Chief, Randy Moore; Inspector Supervisor, Carroll Green; Mine Safety Engineer, Mike Willis; Emergency Response Coordinator Chris Whitt and Administrative Program Specialist, Becky Sanders.

“No Way Out” can be found on DMME’s YouTube Channel at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8papMwBs\\_hnU2dNFSnU\\_Ww/feed](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8papMwBs_hnU2dNFSnU_Ww/feed) Copies are also available on request by contacting DMME’s Division of Mines at (276) 523-8100

The project was funded through MSHA via the Brookwood Sago Grant.

DMME teamed with Daniel Springen and DMPI to produce three other safety videos, “Lead the Way”, “The Right Choice” and “Step Up to the Plate” which were also awarded a Grand Prize in 2012 and 2004 and First Place in 2006, respectively at MSHA’s Annual Training Materials Competition. “Lead the Way” also featured an emergency situation underground. “The Right Choice” addressed continuous mining machine safety and “Step Up to the Plate,” substance abuse in the work place.

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