



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 23219-3638
(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237
www.dmme.virginia.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2018

Contact: Tarah Kesterson (276) 523-8146

Cell: (276) 356-3405

E-mail: Tarah.Kesterson@dmme.virginia.gov

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Danny Mullins Takes Tops Award in Pre-Shift Safety Day Contest Hosted by the Virginia Mining Institute

DMME's Mine Rescue Team Receives Third Place Trophy

Blacksburg, Va. – The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) brought home a first place trophy from Blacksburg. Danny Mullins, a mine safety inspector and member of Virginia's mine rescue team, outscored all other competitors in the pre-shift competition held last week at the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Community Center. DMME's mine rescue team also received a third place trophy on the second day of team competition. Wellmore Coal Company's Red Team was the Grand Champions of the event.

The rescue and safety contest was sponsored by the Virginia Mining Institute (VMI). The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Kentucky mine officials, Ohio mine officials, West Virginia mine officials and several volunteers including retired mine rescue alumni helped at the event.

Mullins trophy is the first top award any member of the team has received. "Danny is very disciplined in his work on the team and in his commitment to the safety of Virginia's miners as a state mine safety inspector," said Virginia Mine Chief Randy Moore. "Winning this competition is proof of successful training at our agency. We are proud of Danny."

Mullins is a native of Clintwood, Virginia. He has been a mine safety inspector at DMME for seven years. Before his state service, Mullins served in the Marines and worked in the coal industry. In addition to being a state inspector and member of the mine rescue team, he is also a certified Virginia mine foreman.

The pre-shift competition is designed for certified Virginia mine foremen and requires the individuals to identify any safety issues harmful to other miners and to correct them. Foremen at active mines are required to do this before and during each shift.

The teams competed to conduct rescue and recovery operations in a staged mine disaster scenario. Miners also competed in a First Aid skills competition and a bench contest in which they identify problems within breathing apparatuses.

Awards were presented on Thursday, August 9th at a banquet at Custom Catering.

Grand Champion of Mine Rescue: Wellmore Coal Company, Wellmore Red Team

1st Runner-Up of Mine Rescue: Ferroglobe/Alden Resources

2nd Runner-Up of Mine Rescue: Pocahontas Coal Co., Pocahontas Mine Rescue

1st Place Mine Rescue Team Day 1: Wellmore Coal Company, Wellmore Red Team

2nd Place Team Day 1: Ferroglobe/Alden Resources, Alden Resources

3rd Place Team Day 1: Pocahontas Coal Co., Pocahontas Mine Rescue

1st Place Mine Rescue Team Day 2: Wellmore Coal Company, Wellmore Red Team

2nd Place Mine Rescue Team Day 2: ACI/Leer Min, Blue Team

3rd Place Mine Rescue Team Day 2: DMME, Virginia Team

First Aid 1st Place: Ferroglobe/Alden Resources, Alden Resources

Bench 1st Place: BG4- Jackie Dillon, Buchanan Minerals, Buchanan Red Team

Bench 2nd Place: BG4- Shaun Bailey, Buchanan Minerals Black Team

Bench 1st Place: 240R- Chris Mercure, ACI/Leer Mine Blue Team

Bench 2nd Place: 240R- Chris Kyle, ACI/Leer Mine, Blue Team

Pre-Shift 1st Place: Danny Mullins, DMME, Virginia Team

Pre-Shift 2nd Place: Kenny Richardson, Buchanan Minerals, Buchanan Red Team

Pre-Shift 3rd Place: Derick Sizemore, Greenbrier Minerals Buffalo Energy, Central Appalachian

Mine Rescue Teams:

ACI/Leer Mine, Blue Team, Grafton, WV

Buchanan Minerals LLC- Buchanan Black Team, Oakwood, VA

Buchanan Minerals LLC- Buchanan Red Team, Oakwood, VA

Ferroglobe/Alden Resources, Alden Resources Team, Corbin, KY

Pocahontas Coal Company, Pocahontas Mine Rescue, Beckley, WV

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME)-Virginia Team, Big Stone Gap, VA

Wellmore Energy Company- Wellmore Red Team, Grundy, VA

###

