



DIVISIONS

ENERGY
GAS AND OIL
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Virginia Recognizes 20 Mines, Nine Individuals for Excellence in Worker Safety

Five Surface Mines Receive Special Award for Entire Crew Working Five Years with No Lost Time Accidents

Big Stone Gap, VA – The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) awarded 20 coal mines in the Commonwealth for no injuries on their sites in 2018. Nine miners were also recognized with individual awards for working decades without an injury. In addition, five surface mines will receive a special award for the entire crew working five years without a lost time accident.

“The operators and miners are to be commended for such attention to safety at their sites,” said Virginia Mine Chief Randy Moore. “Our mine safety team also deserves credit for their public service of visiting these sites, talking with miners and training the workforce in an effort to ensure all coal miners return home safely at the end of their shifts”

Even more admirable is the fact there were no fatalities in Virginia’s coal industry in 2018. The Commonwealth’s last coal mining fatality was in 2015.

In 2018, 25 coal mines worked a combined nearly 2.5 million employee hours without a lost time accident. All of these mines will be recognized for their extraordinary safety achievements with awards presented by DMME on behalf of the Virginia Mine Safety Board. Photos of the presentations will be posted on DMME’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Below is a list of mines that will be recognized for exemplary safety records in 2018:

SURFACE OPERATIONS IN WHICH ENTIRE CREW WORKED AT LEAST FIVE YEARS WITH NO LOST TIME ACCIDENTS

- Black Diamond Company, Wellmore #8 Prep Plant, Buchanan County – 540,179 employee hours
- Paramont Contura, LLC, Tom’s Creek Complex, Wise County – 365,607 employee hours
- Surface Minerals Company, Huffman Fork, Buchanan County – 335,378 employee hours
- Ramaco Resources Land Holdings, LLC, Coal Creek Prep Plant, Tazewell County – 207,127 employee hours
- Savage Services Corporation, Savage Blending Terminal, Wise County – 140,157 employee hours

LARGE UNDERGROUND CATEGORY

- Buchanan Minerals, LLC, Buchanan Mine #1, Buchanan County – 1,407,719 employee hours

MEDIUM UNDERGROUND CATEGORY

- AB&J Coal Company, Inc. No. 6 Mine, Buchanan County – 48,041 employee hours

LARGE SURFACE CATEGORY

- Surface Minerals, Surface Mine No. 1, Buchanan County – 148,984 employee hours
- Black Diamond Company, Wellmore #8 Prep Plant, Buchanan County – 129,225 employee hours
- Paramont Contura, Toms Creek Prep Plant, Wise County – 82,209 employee hours
- Surface Minerals, Huffman Fork, Buchanan County – 80,964 employee hours
- Paramont Contura, LLC, Long Branch Surface & HWM, Dickenson County – 67,757 employee hours
- BlackJewel, LLC, P-7 Pigeon Creek, Wise County – 65,745 employee hours
- BlackJewel, LLC, P-14, Lee County – 58,288 employee hours
- Ridgetop Development, #1, Wise County – 55,375 employee hours

MEDIUM SURFACE CATEGORY

- Mill Creek Mining, Ken Energy Corporation, Dickenson County – 47,456 employee hours
- Apex Energy, Inc., No. 10, Buchanan County – 44,038 employee hours
- Ramaco Resources, Coal Creek Prep Plant, Tazewell County – 40,425 employee hours
- Humphreys Enterprises, Inc., Wise County – 28,027 employee hours
- Extra Energy, Inc., VA Point Surface, Tazewell County – 27,484 employee hours
- True Energy, LLC, True Energy Fuels Mine, Wise County – 26,570 employee hours

SMALL SURFACE CATEGORY

- Savage Services, Savage Blending Terminal, Wise County – 24,906 employee hours
- Surface Minerals Company, Hackney, Buchanan County – 22,933 employee hours
- Wellmore Coal Company, LLC, #7 Prep Plant, Buchanan County – 17,102 employee hours

- C W Augering, Inc., No. 2, Buchanan County – 10,288 employee hours

40-YEAR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Randy Mullins, Paramount Contura – 43 years

30-YEAR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Robin Chisenhall, Paramount Contura – 33 years
- Mike Cox, Paramount Contura – 30 years

20-YEAR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Joe McFarland, Paramount Contura – 22 years
- Kenneth Webb, Paramount Contura – 22 years
- Ronny Smith, Paramount Contura, 22 years
- Dave Dillon, Paramount Contura, 20 years

10-YEAR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- Jamie Ratliff, Paramount Contura – 18 years
- Brad Ratliff, Paramount Contura – 13 years