



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
MINE SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (MSHA)  
Protecting Miners' Safety & Health Since 1978



**MSHA Mine Emergency Operations**  
by  
*John E. Urosek*  
*MSHA, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA*

# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Current Coal Mine Emergency Unit information

- Fully Equipped Mine Rescue Stations for Coal are Maintained in Pittsburgh, Beckley, and Price
- The Coal Unit is Comprised of About 30 Members who Practice Four Days each Quarter.

## Current Metal and Non-Metal Mine Rescue Team Information

- Mine Rescue Station is located in Beckley

# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Mine Rescue Team Trucks Located in Beckley and Price



**Trucks Contain Support Equipment for the Mine  
Emergency Unit**

# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Pittsburgh Station – National Headquarters



**New Command Vehicle – State of the Art Communications**

*Under Construction*

# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Pittsburgh Station – National Headquarters



**Mobile Monitoring Vehicle**

**Infra-red Detectors**



# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Pittsburgh Station – National Headquarters



**Mobile Laboratory  
Chromatographs**



# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Pittsburgh Station – National Headquarters



## Seismic Location System

*Upgrades Underway*



# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Pittsburgh Station – National Headquarters



**Borehole Camera System**



# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Pittsburgh Station – National Headquarters



**Modified (Permissible) Remotec Andros Wolverine Robot**



# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

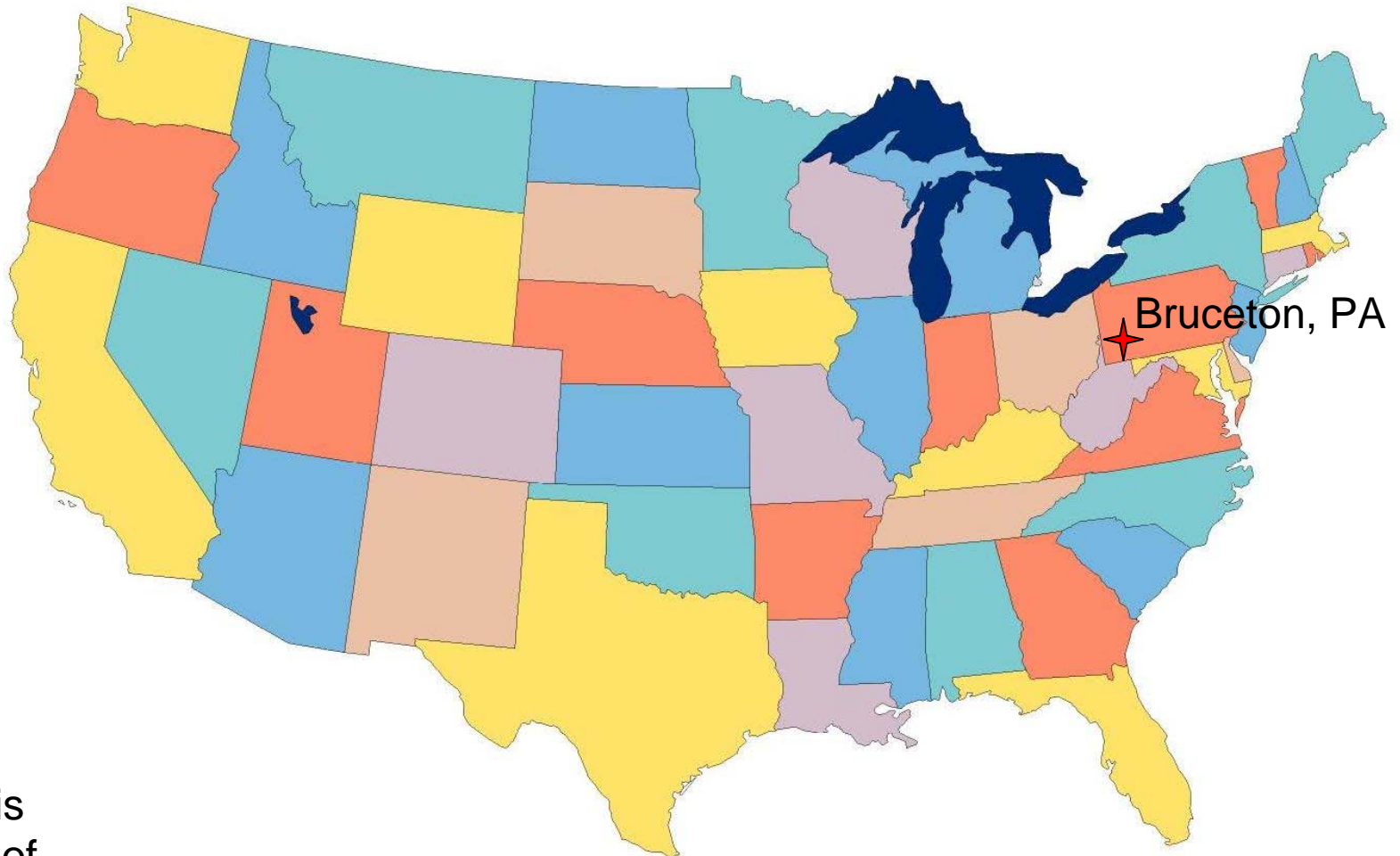
## Pittsburgh Station – National Headquarters



### Rapid Response Vehicle

**Satellite Phone, Mobile Phone, Computer Station, GPS,  
CD, Secure Radio**

# MEU Mobilization From Bruceton, PA



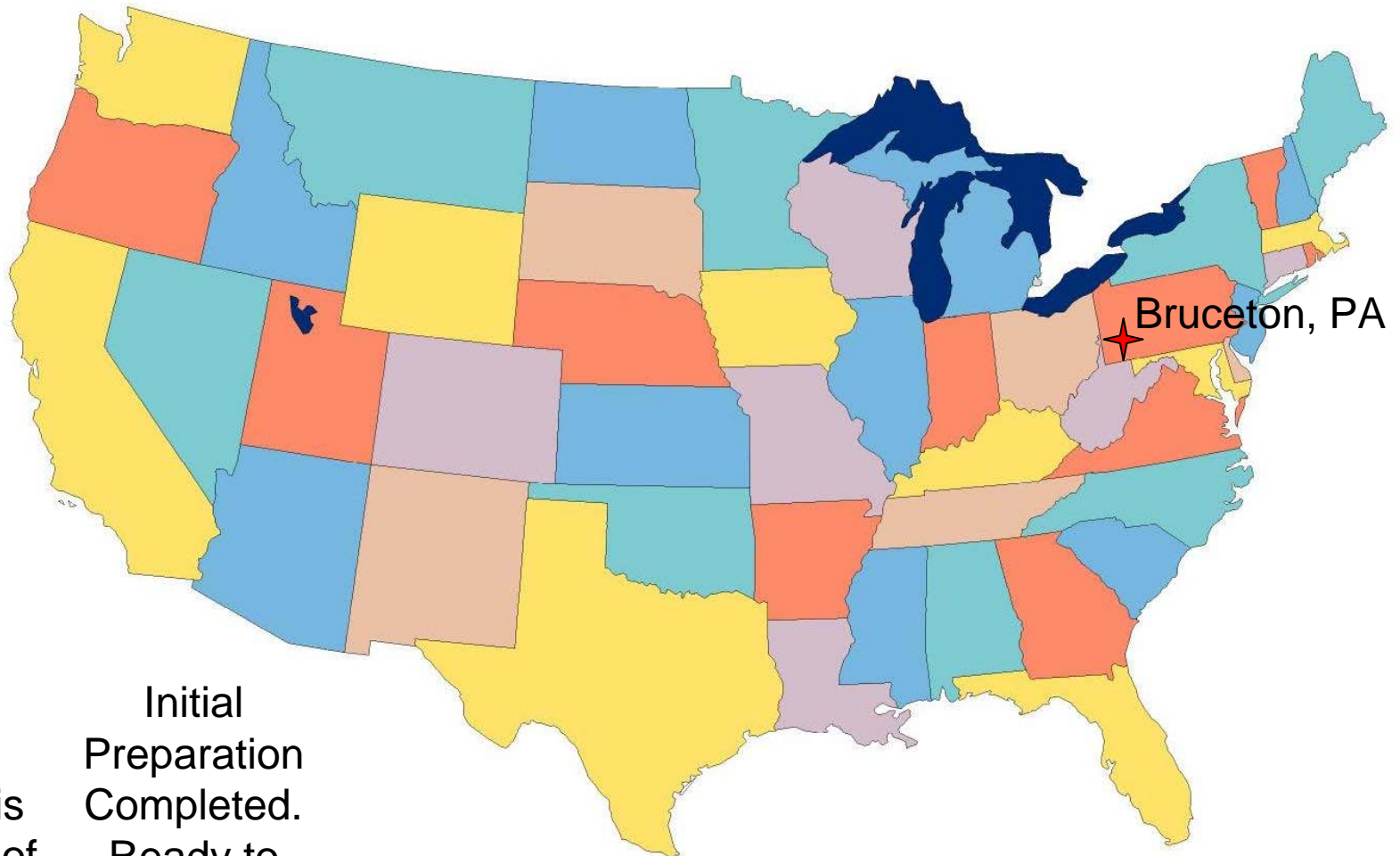
MSHA is  
Notified of  
Incident

0



Timeline in Hours

# MEU Mobilization From Bruceton, PA



MSHA is  
Notified of  
Incident

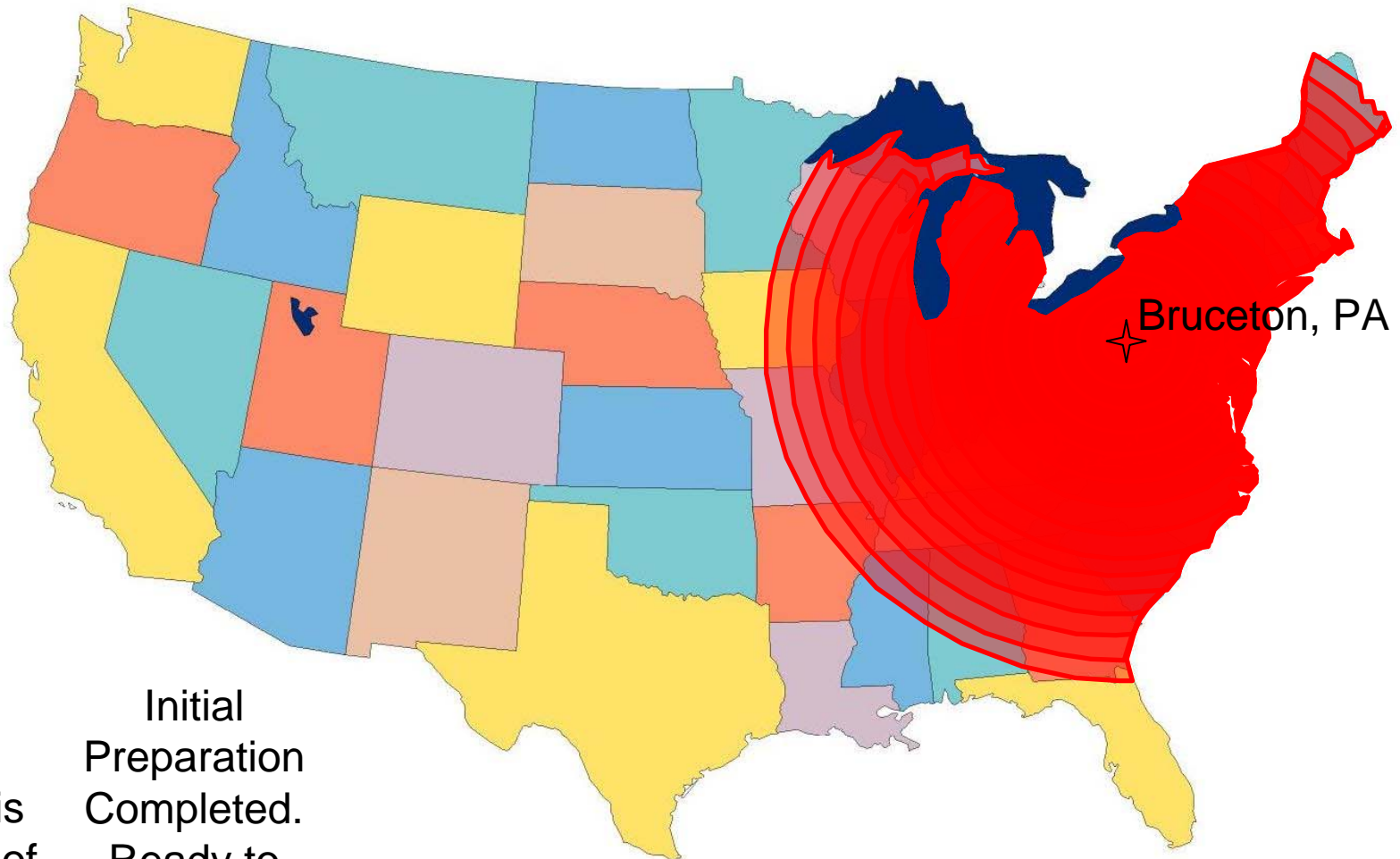
Initial  
Preparation  
Completed.  
Ready to  
Deploy

0 1 2 3



Timeline in Hours

# MEU Mobilization From Bruceton, PA



MSHA is  
Notified of  
Incident

Initial  
Preparation  
Completed.  
Ready to  
Deploy

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Timeline in Hours

# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Beckley Station



## Command Vehicle

# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Beckley Station



**PEIR Communication Vehicle**  
**Truck Under Construction**



# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Beckley Station



**Urban Search and Rescue / Field Office Trailer**



# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

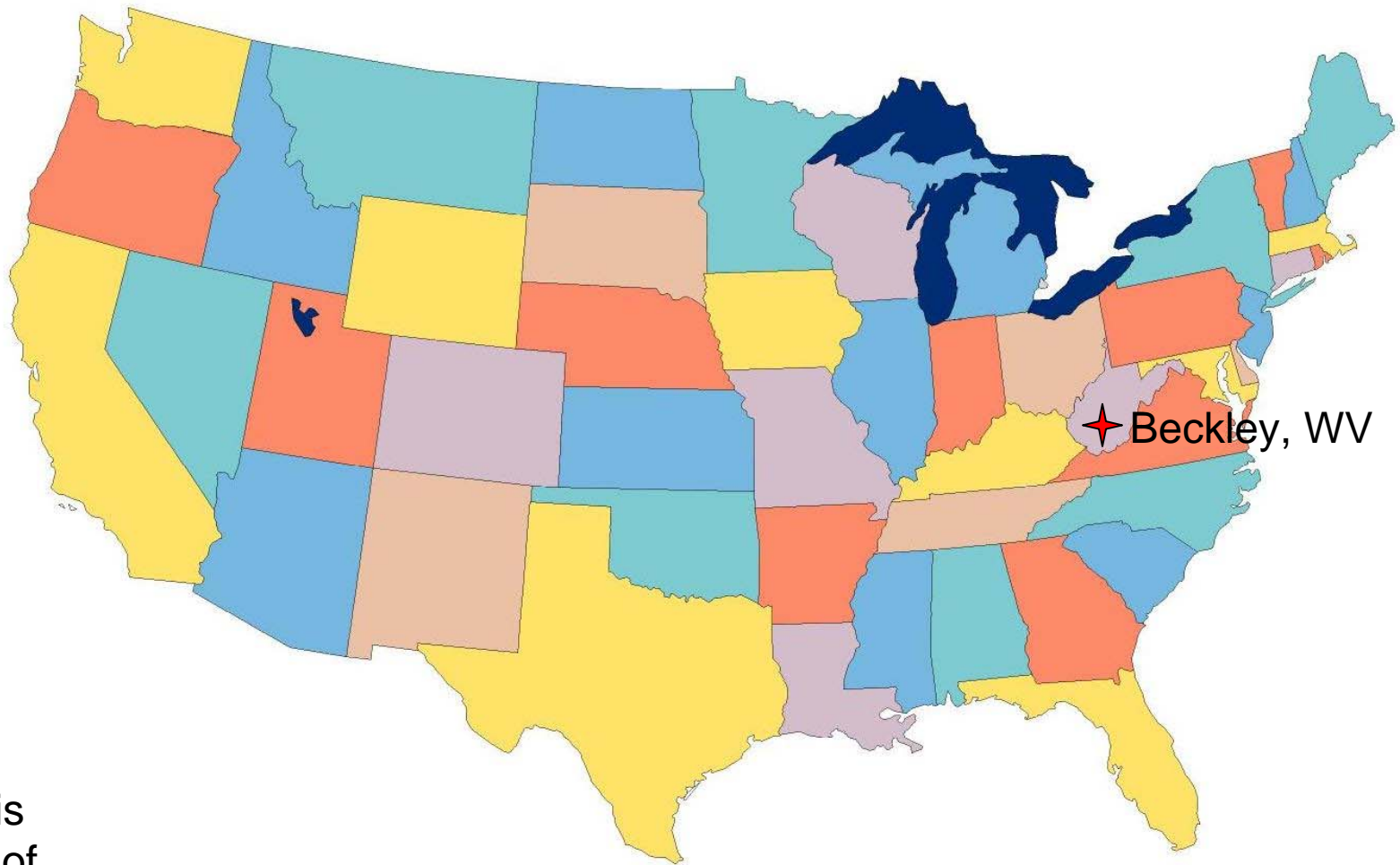
## Beckley Station

*Under Construction*

### **Rapid Response Vehicle**

**Satellite Phone, Mobile Phone, Computer Station, GPS,  
CD, Secure Radio**

# MEU Team Mobilization From Beckley, WV



Beckley, WV

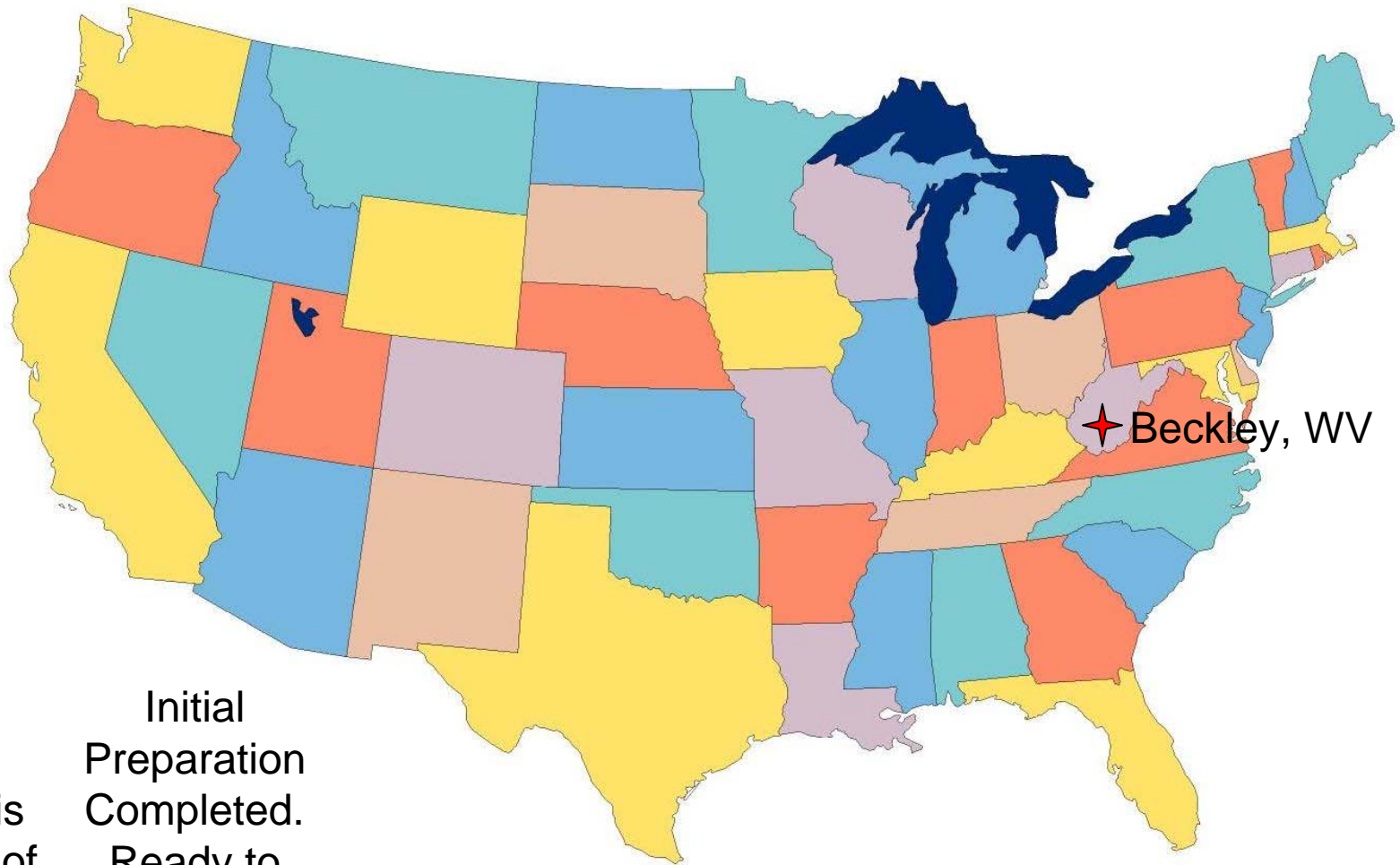
MSHA is  
Notified of  
Incident

0



Timeline in Hours

# MEU Team Mobilization From Beckley, WV



MSHA is  
Notified of  
Incident

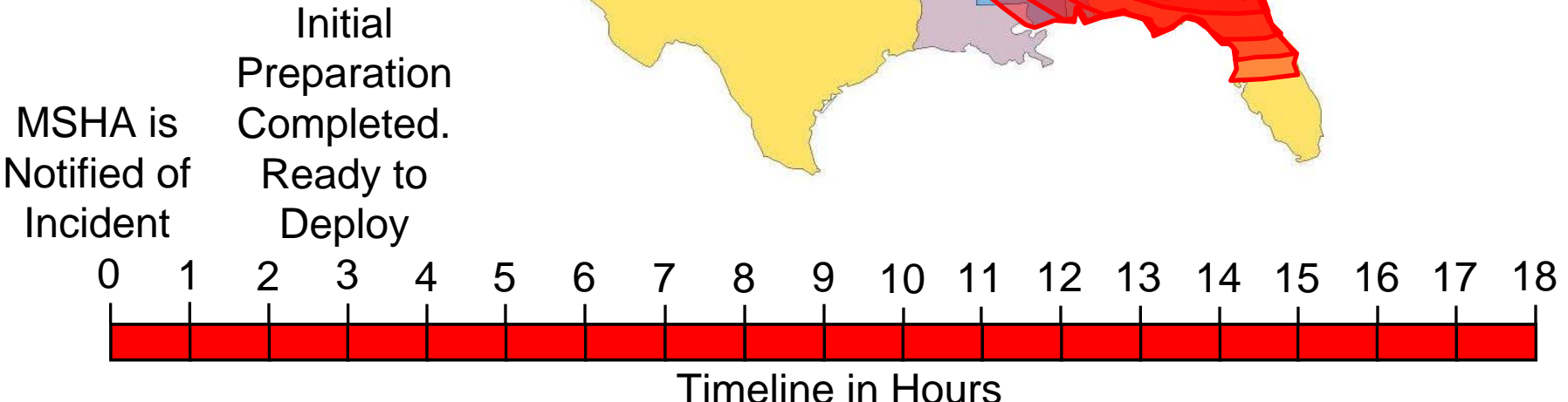
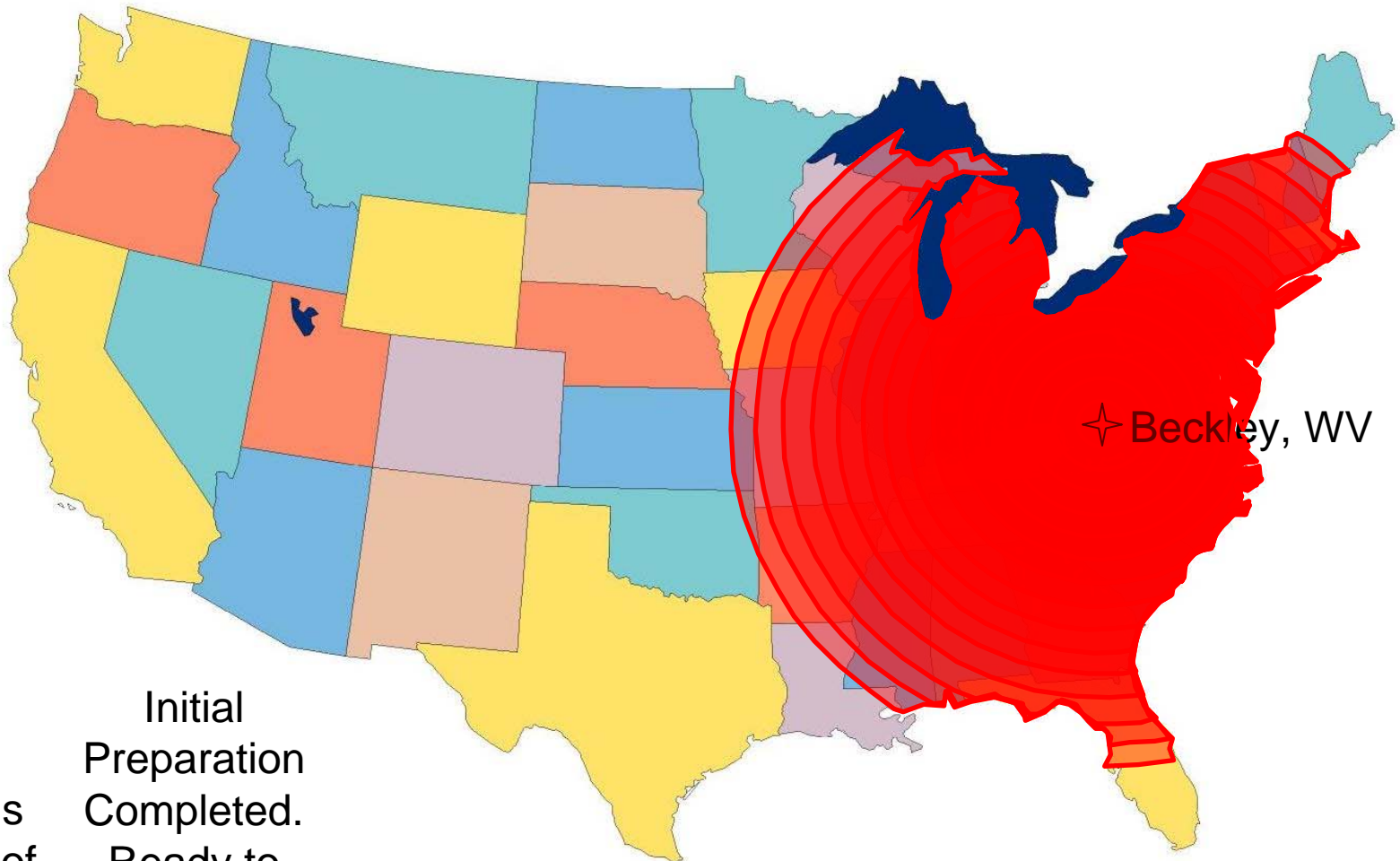
Initial  
Preparation  
Completed.  
Ready to  
Deploy

0 1 2 3



Timeline in Hours

# MEU Team Mobilization From Beckley, WV





# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Price Station / Denver Office



## Command Center



# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Price Station / Denver Office



**Mobile Monitoring Vehicle**

**Under Construction**

**Infra-red Detectors**



# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Price Station / Denver Office



**PEIR Communication Vehicle  
Trailer Under Construction**

# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## Price Station / Denver Office

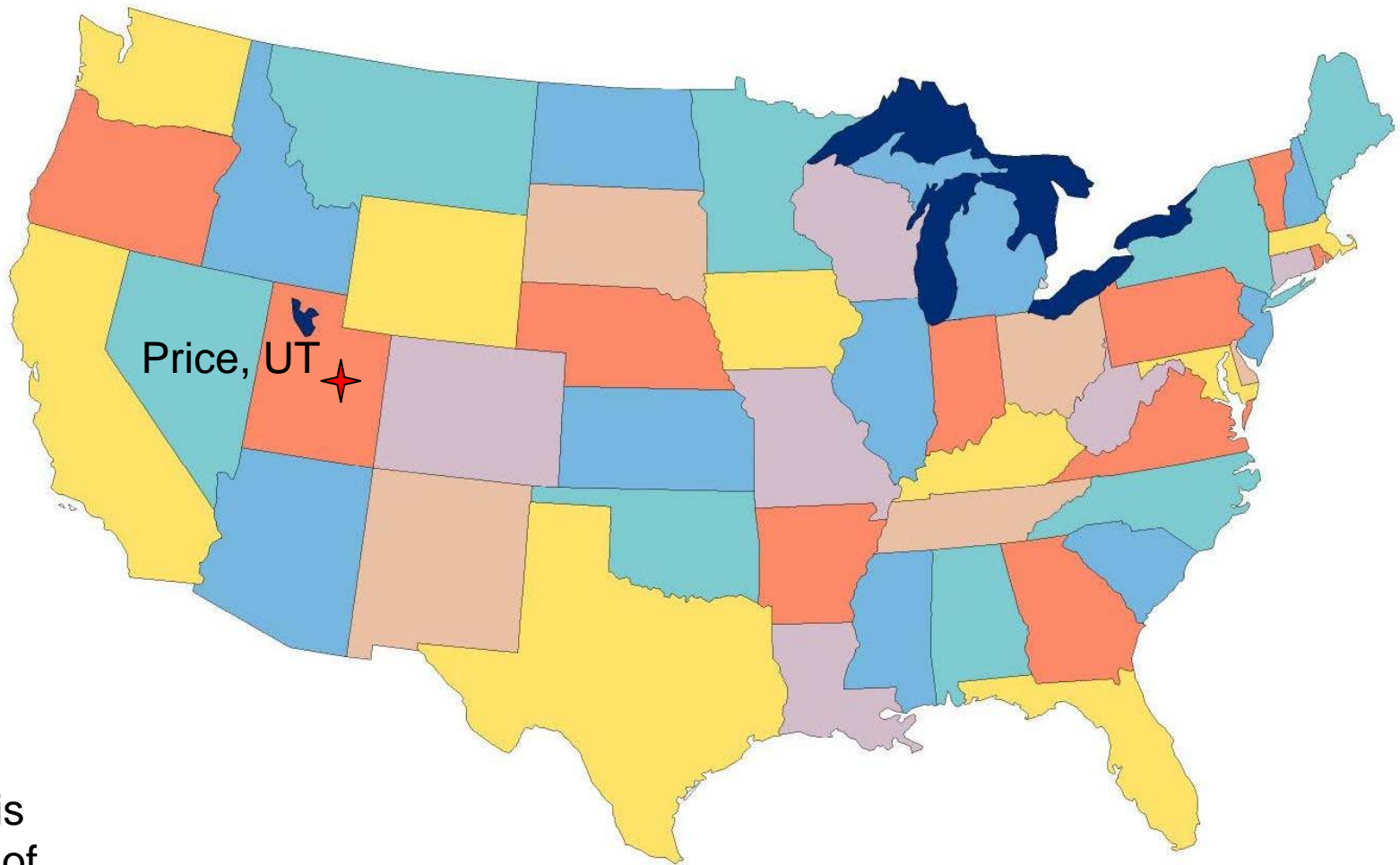
*Under Construction*

## Rapid Response Vehicle

**Satellite Phone, Mobile Phone, Computer Station, GPS,  
CD, Secure Radio**



# MEU Team Mobilization From Price, UT



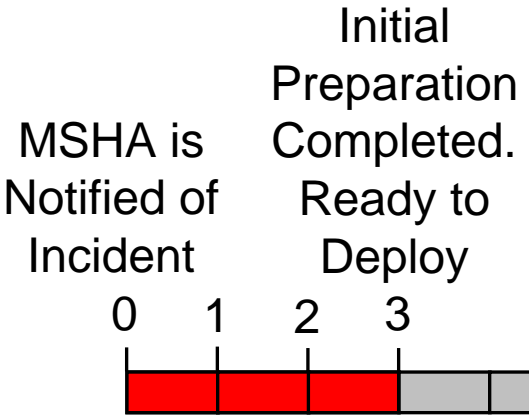
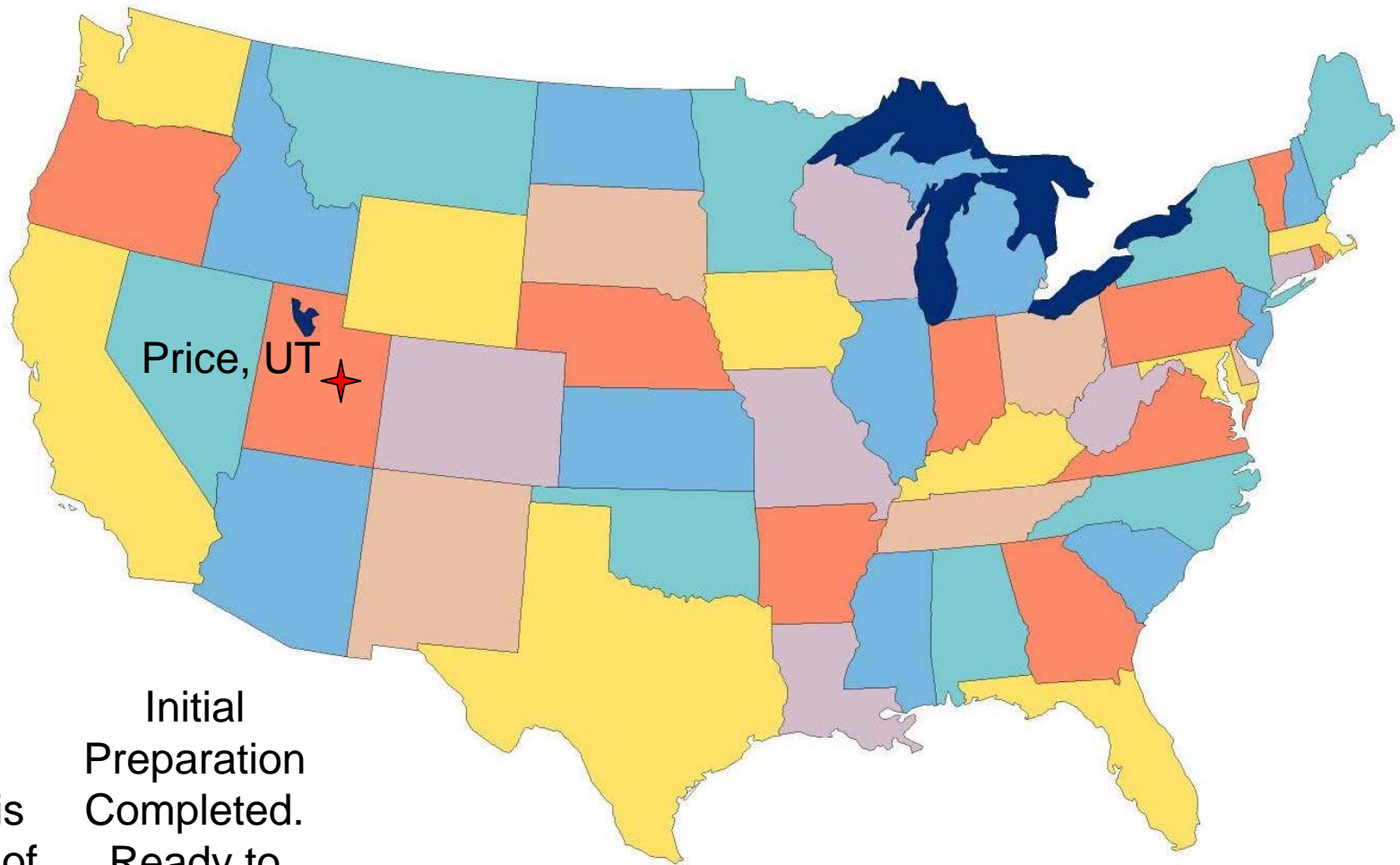
MSHA is  
Notified of  
Incident

0



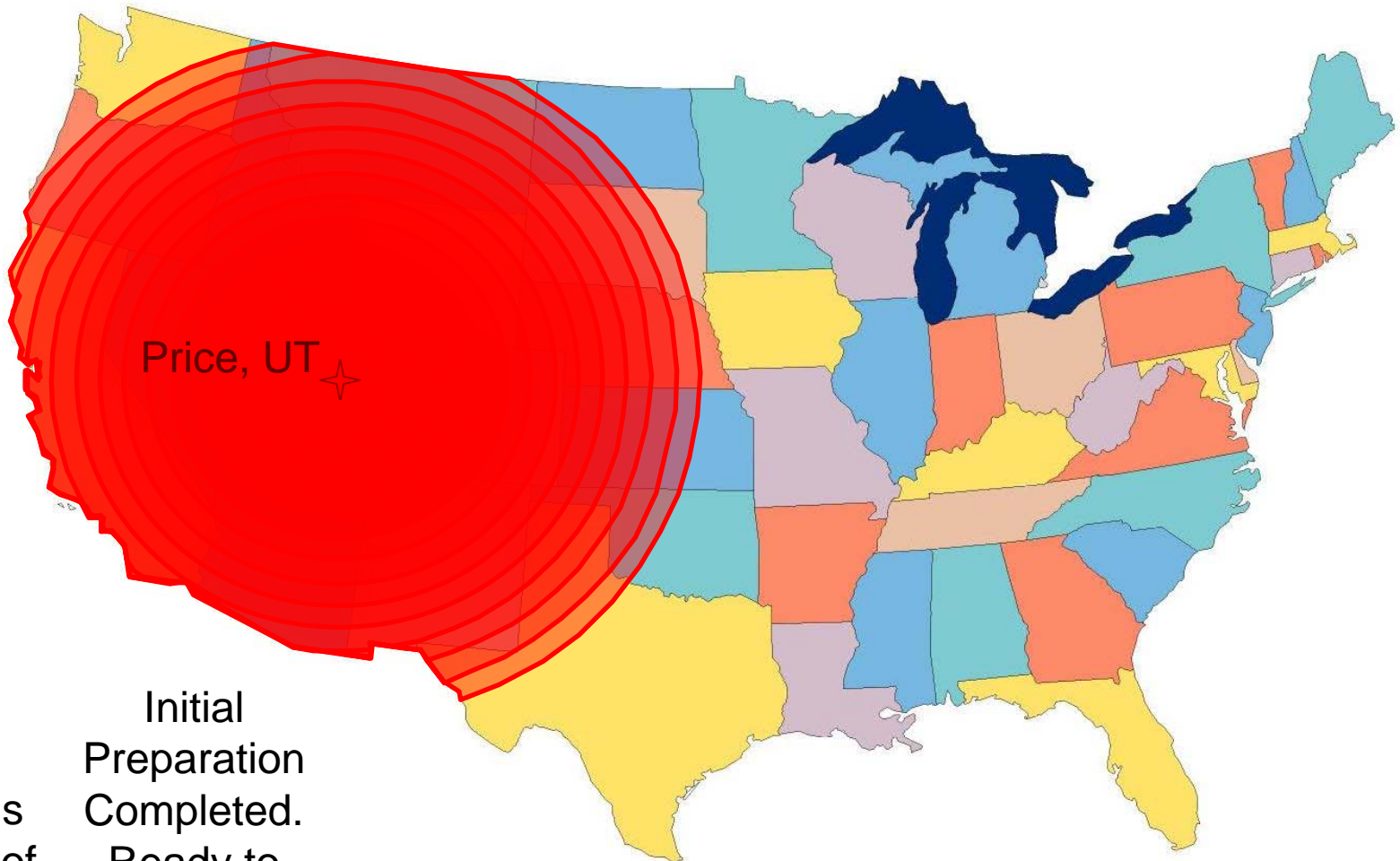
Timeline in Hours

# MEU Team Mobilization From Price, UT



Timeline in Hours

# MEU Team Mobilization From Price, UT



Price, UT

Initial  
Preparation  
Completed.  
Ready to  
Deploy

MSHA is  
Notified of  
Incident

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Timeline in Hours



# MSHA Mine Emergency Operations

## WHAT ELSE?

1. *Specialized Equipment*
2. *Training*
3. *Experience*

# What is MSHA looking for?

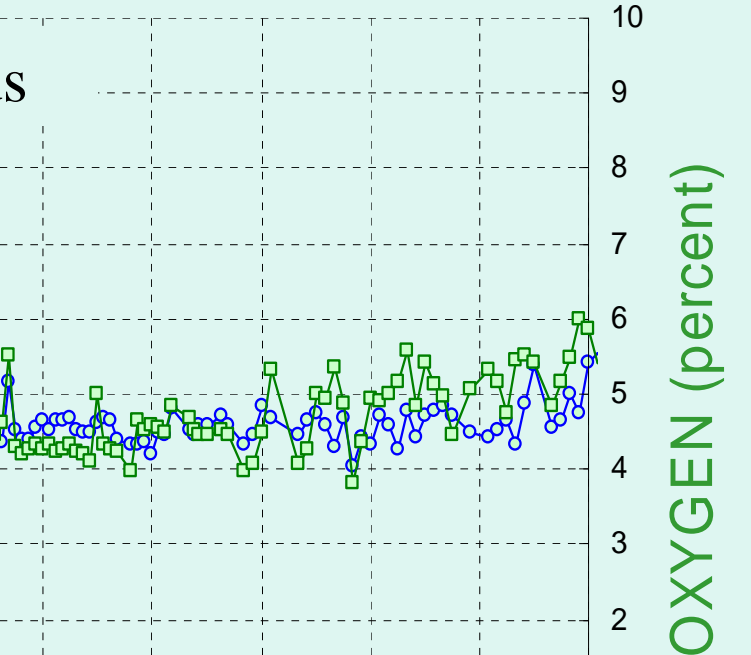
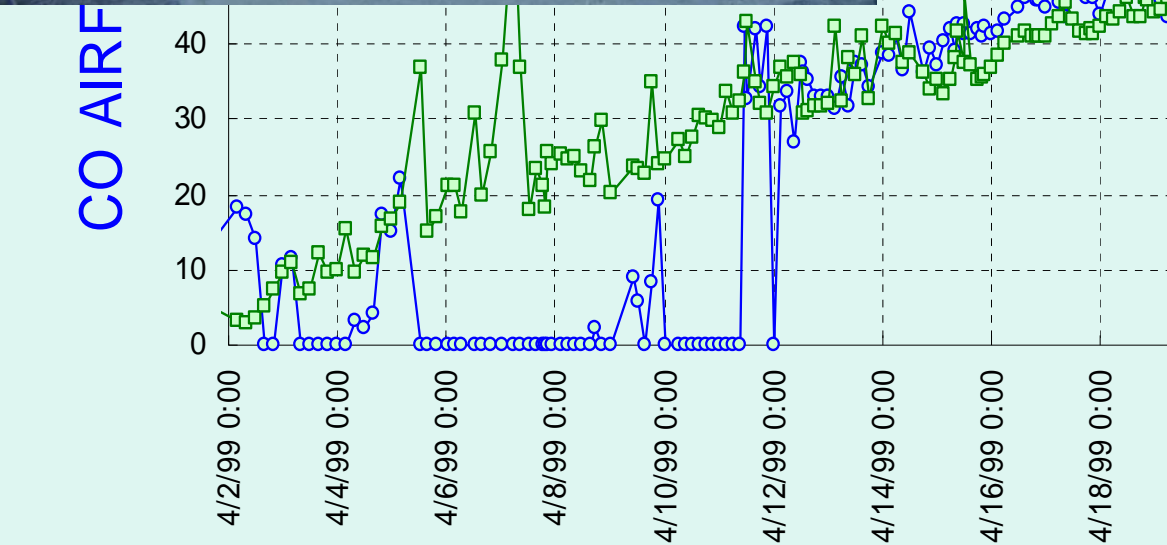
- Information from underground
- Gas readings



# By the Numbers

free and Oxygen

and Upwards



Date & Time



# Gas Readings

- In General;
  - An upward trend in methane or carbon monoxide is not positive.
  - Higher than normal concentrations of methane must be explained.
  - A stable trend may be positive
  - A downward trend may be positive

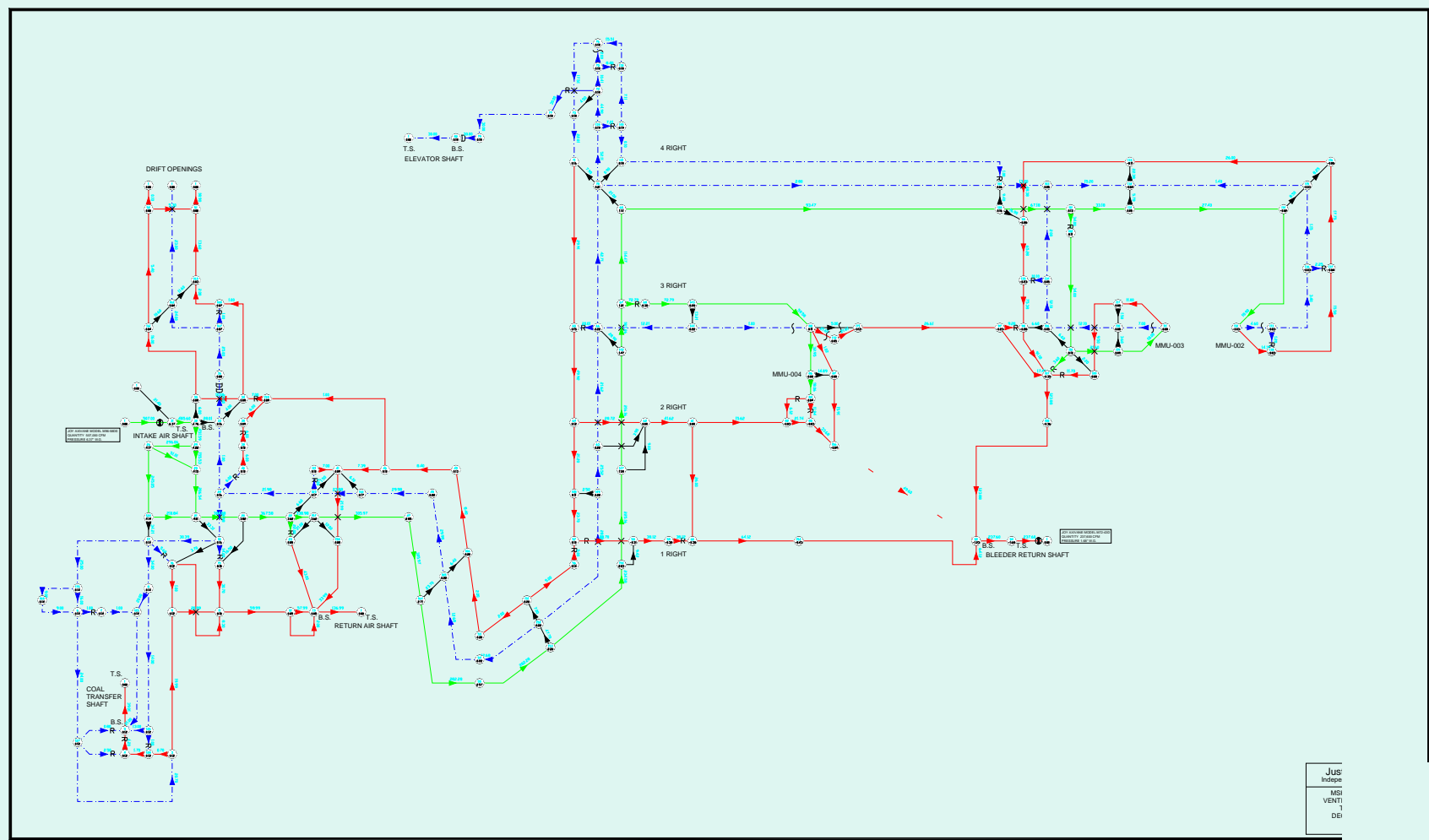
# Thoughts

- If all personnel are safely withdrawn from the mine:
  - Wait 72 hours
- If the mine or a portion of the mine is sealed:
  - Wait 100 days



# DO NOT CHANGE VENTILATION

WITHOUT KNOWING THE FULL SITUATION AND BEING ABLE TO TAKE ONE STEP BACK



# *Know your Options*

Look at the Numbers.

If it is too dangerous for Mine Rescue Teams,  
explore other options.

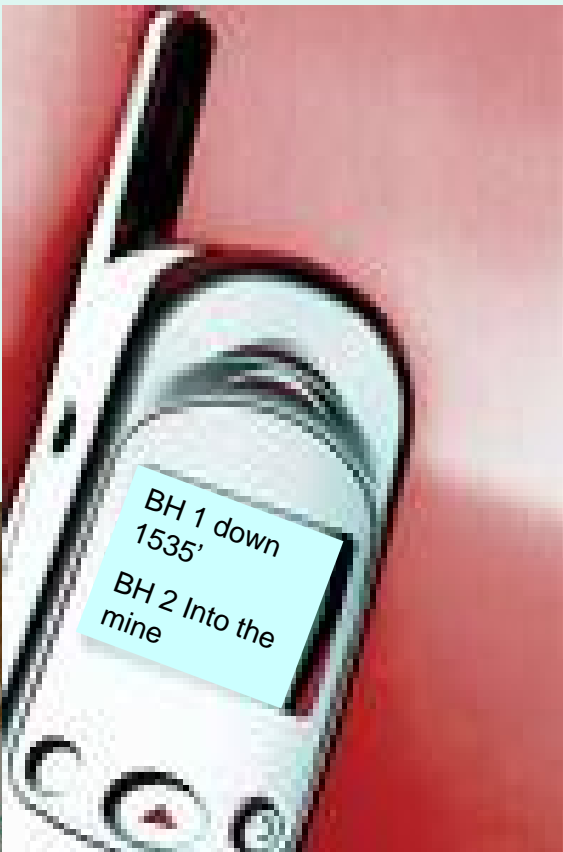


# Start Drilling!!! 96 Hours



# Establishing a Command Center

Distribute the information



MSHA D-10 FAX 270-825-0949

CO<sub>2</sub> - 380 88 (Return)

LOAD #	START TIME	STOP TIME	(Pounds) WGT.	LOAD
#1	12:50 P.M.	1:50	43,500	1
#2	4:00	4:42	43,880	2
#3	4:48	5:42	42,600	3
#4	5:51	6:41	44,080	4
#5	6:49	7:34	40,180	5
#6	7:48	8:30	41,080	6
#7	8:50	9:49	44,560	7
#8	10:25	11:18	44,300	8
#9	12:00 A.M.	12:45	41,940	9
#10	05:10	05:52	44,180	10
#11	9:15 A.M.	9:57	40,720	11
#12	10:04	10:45	39,680	12
#13	10:49	11:26	39,540	13
#14	12:10 A.M.	12:57	44,160	14
#15	01:04	01:50	43,580	15
#16	03:59	04:38	39,960	16
#17	04:42	05:20	39,860	17
#18				18
#19				19
#20				20
#21				21
#22				22
#23				23
#24				24
#25				25
#26				26
#27				27

Handwritten notes on the whiteboard:

- 650-700 lbs/min
- 6500 CFM
- 2 coops
- 11 coops
- X731:
- 60
- 17000 CFM
- 27 N<sub>2</sub> 3/8 9:46
- 26 3/8 11:20
- 5:00 PM

**WHO IS IN YOUR  
 COMMAND CENTER?**



**Family Members are Brought in to Observe Drilling Operations**

# Media

## From the local newspaper...

World  
 Car bomb kills at least 47 people in Iraq  
 — Page A2

Finance  
 Comcast makes bid to buy Disney  
 — Page A5

**The Messenger**  
 THURSDAY  
 Madisonville, Ky. • February 12, 2004 • www.the-messenger.com  
 Established 1917

50 Cents

### Mine fire forces crews to evacuate

*No one injured in Dotiki blaze, which defies efforts to extinguish*

BY AMANDA RICHARDSON  
 arichardson@the-messenger.com

NEBO — A cloud of gray smoke filled an otherwise bright blue sky over miles of farmland and Dotiki Mine in northwest Hopkins County.

A fire that started at about 4:30 a.m. at the Dotiki mine site on Balls Hill Road was still burning into the evening hours Wednesday, causing mine rescue workers to be evacuated.

Coal miner Dwight Browning reports: "We had no problem getting out," Browning said. "I wouldn't call it a close call. Anyone you're in the underground mines, you just thank God you made the surface."

Rescue crews from across the region worked throughout the day to bring the blaze under control. A press release from the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet indicated that high temperatures, smoke and potentially dangerous levels of methane made fighting the fire unsafe for crews, and the workers were evacuated.

"The fire was a result of an apparent mobile equipment malfunction and is confined to a small area of the mine," Alliance Coal said in a statement at approximately 10:30 a.m.

A source who wished to remain anonymous said that the "mobile equipment" was a Jeep-like vehicle that is used to move around in the mine.

White County Coal's Patrick Rescoe, South Hopkins Rescue, Fort Campbell, Nebo, Antton and Mines and Minerals said the mine is still being worked.

Through an

**Dotiki Mine facts:**

- Underground mine acquired by Alliance Coal in 1971
- Mine produces high-volatile coal at rate of 1,000 tons per hour
- Workers use continuous mining to pull coal from the No. 8 coal seam
- The new mine shaft near Wednesday's fire opened in 2003




# Media To National News...





**Sampling Tube**

**Plan for the  
Worst!!!**



Keep  
Looking at  
Options!!!





Learn What May Work and  
Its Limitations.

Beware of  
Salesmen  
Who Promise  
Everything.

**From Inert Gas Foam to....**



## Nitrogen Injection....



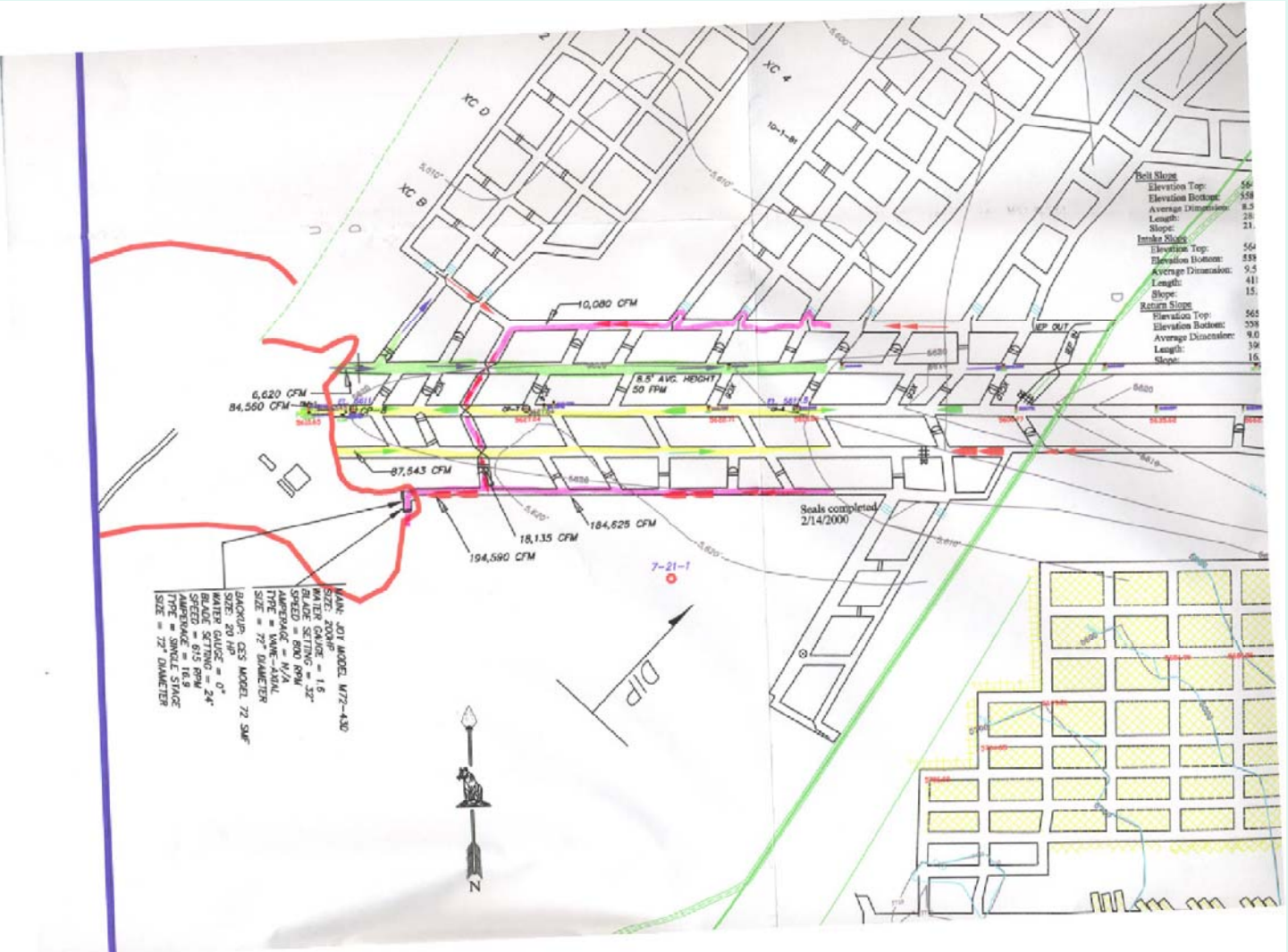
## Remote seals...



## Inert Gas Jet Engines...

# Identifying Necessary Resources

Mine maps help to guide the rescue efforts.



# Identifying Necessary Resources

Dependent upon the type of emergency...

Water Inundation

Pumps, survey equipment



# Identifying Necessary Resources

Some areas are so remote that it is necessary to fly in supplies.



# Identifying Necessary Resources

Dependent upon the type of emergency...

Emergencies typically require coordination of medical help as well as police for access control.



# Identifying Necessary Resources

Dependent upon the type of emergency...

Once all of the rescue personnel arrive, there is a big communication and IT demand.  
Food and Sanitary facilities are always needed!





# Gas Sampling

## Instantaneous Monitoring Equipment



# Gas Sampling

Gas chromatograph setup at a mine fire



# Cameras and Robotics

Cameras have been used in mine emergency responses for a number of years.



# Cameras and Robotics

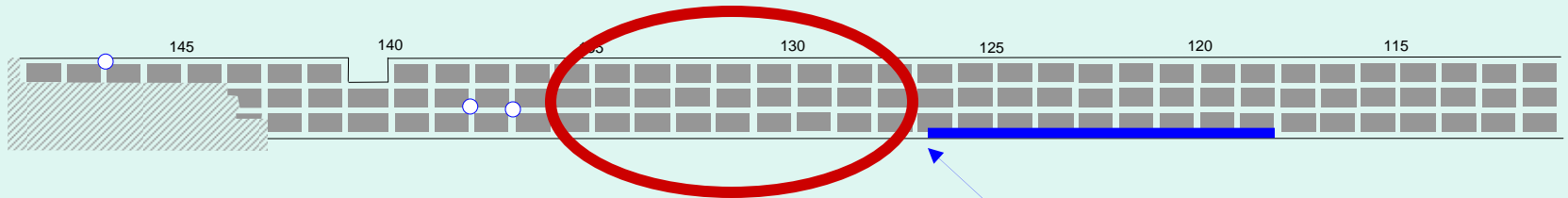
Boreholes have allowed access with these devices to areas to verify the integrity of ventilation controls, observe ground conditions and smoke within open entries, and search for missing miners.





Remote Plugs were Installed  
Using this Equipment.

Based on information from Boreholes 1, 2, and 3 and underground observations, it was expected that conditions underground would be more severe in the high cover, +2000 ft, indicated in red, but that conditions would improve in by.



**During a rescue effort, the first responsibility is the safety of the rescuers. Even when you cover all of the bases, the unexpected can occur.....**

8/16 progress

# Training

