

## 2018 Harlan County Safety Days Mine Rescue Competition

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The eighth annual Harlan County Safety Days was held on July 24-26, 2018 at Southeast Community and Technical College's Cumberland Campus. The event was sponsored by Cumberland Tourism. Fourteen teams from four states (Illinois, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia) spent the three days participating in mine rescue, first-aid, pre-shift, and bench competitions. Teams included: Alpha Natural Resources Southern WV Team 2, Arch Coal Leer Complex, Arch Coal Mountain Laurel Complex, Blackhawk Mining LLC – Kentucky Team, Blackjewel LLC – Blue Team, Blackjewel, LLC – Lone Mountain, Contura Energy – Paramont Contura, Ferroglobe/Alden Resources – Alden Resources Team, Peabody Gateway North, Peabody Midwest Wildcat Hills, Rockhampton Energy LLC, State of Kentucky – Harlan Team, State of Kentucky – Martin Team, and Wellmore Coal Company Red Team.

Tracy Bailey, Cumberland Tourism Commission's Executive Director stated "it's an honor to host this event, it helps the economy while it gives the teams the training they need in case of an emergency, which is the most important part." She also added that "we appreciate these teams and all they do to keep our coal miners safe."

To wrap up the week's event, an awards ceremony was held with the keynote address given by Mr. Freddie Lewis, vice-president of Blackhawk Mining, LLC. Mr. Lewis told the miners in attendance to "keep your heads held high and be proud of what you do." He went on to thank the mine rescue personnel for what they do in times of need.

First place award winners included: Day One Mine Rescue, Day Two Mine Rescue and Overall Mine Rescue being won by Ferroglobe/Alden Resource – Fred Shannon Captain. The First Aid competition along with the Mine Rescue/First Aid Combination was won by Ferroglobe/Alden Resources. Pre-shift examination award was won by Steve Countiss, Blackjewel, LLC. Blue Team. Bench competition award winners were: Drager BG4 – Tony Lloyd, Blackjewel, LLC. Blue Team and BioPak 240R – Jamie Anderson, Peabody Midwest Wildcat Hills Team.

The Harlan County Safety Days Mine Rescue Committee and Cumberland Tourism Commission wishes to thank the United States Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Commonwealth of Kentucky Division of Mine Safety for providing judges and support for the event. We also wish to thank Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College for providing facilities and support. Much thanks to our sponsors and partners which include, Harlan County Fiscal Court, Kentucky Coal Academy, JRL Coal, Harlan Appalachian Regional Hospital, Drager Safety, and the City of Cumberland.

Photos with captions can be found at this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u8b9vh79moygyzk/AADTNk5II22FjB2uV1YOJdaOa?dl=0>

All photos taken by Jeremy N. Williams, Harlan County Safety Days Mine Rescue Competition