



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Wellmore Coal Company is 2021 Governor's Cup Mine Rescue Champion

Wise, VA – Wellmore Coal Company took top honors at the 2021 Virginia Governor's Cup Mine Rescue Competition.

The competition was held on the Carl Smith Football Stadium at The University of Virginia's College at Wise. The rescue and safety contests were co-hosted by the Metallurgical Coal Producers Association and Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME).

"It was great to get these teams at an in-person event after COVID forced us to be creative to get our required mine competitions in last year," said DMME Director of Coal Programs Randy Moore. "When it comes to mine rescue, comradery is just as important as testing our skills."

The mine rescue teams competed to conduct rescue and recovery operations in a staged mine disaster scenario laid out in the stadium. Team members donned full mine rescue gear, including oxygen breathing apparatus, to determine underground mine conditions, construct ventilation controls and locate and extract accident "victims".

The teams were judged on their thoroughness in recording mine conditions on a map as they advanced into the "mine" and their ability to identify and respond to hazards that could endanger the team or trapped miners.

Individual coal miners also competed in preshift competitions. The preshift competition is designed for mine foreman and judges their ability to identify and rid the coal mine of any problems. Foreman do this check before the beginning of each shift to ensure the safety of their crews.

DMME Chief Deputy Jennifer Palestrant, Moore and Barbara Altizer with Metallurgical Coal Producers Association presented the awards.

Virginia Governor's Cup and 1st Place: Wellmore Coal Company

2nd Place Team: Alden Resources

Pre-Shift: Frankie Moore, Contura Energy

2nd Place: Todd Ward, Wellmore Coal Company

Virginia Governor's Cup Teams: Wellmore Coal Company, Metinvest Pocahontas, Paramont Contura, Virginia Small Operators Mine Rescue and Alden Resources.

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Pictured L to R:

1st Row - Taylor Swift, Shannon Sutherland and Chris Turner

2nd Row - Jordan Curry, Caleb Schoeff, Todd Ward, Shannon Moore, Barbara Altizer and Will Altizer

3rd Row - Randy Moore, Jennifer Palenstrant and Jonathan Berger