

When required, coal operators adhere to strict guidelines in the areas of planning, permitting, and environmental control procedures.

Although the legislation was needed, and was well-intended, it left many operators confused. Many of them knew that their old methods of surface mining were now inadequate, but they did not know how to meet the new standards and, at the same time, maintain an operation that was economically sound.

Recognizing the need to assist the coal operators to understand, to comply, and to cope with the increasing amounts of environmental legislation, the Virginia Community College System, the Virginia Division of Mined Land Reclamation, and the Tennessee Valley Authority have developed a cooperative educational program that will provide tuition-free courses, workshops, and seminars for coal operators, foremen, engineers, environmental specialists, and federal and state regulatory personnel.

The tuition-free

Empire Community College (MECC), at Big Stone Gap. Both institutions have outstanding records of education and training support to the mining industry.

One of the administering institutions, SVCC, which has received authorization to initiate a two-year, Associate in Applied Science Degree program in Mined Land Reclamation in 1982, will provide administrative and office personnel who will coordinate the current cooperative program. Facilities will be provided by SVCC for all programs designed to serve the mining operations and those individuals residing in the College's service area; MECC will provide facilities for that institution's designated service area.

The program's planning and organization will be guided by an Overview Advisory Committee, an extension of the Governor's Advisory Committee of the Virginia Division of Mined Land Reclamation. The Committee consists of representatives of the Virginia

V.P. Rescue Teams In Company Competition

Mine rescue teams from the Virginia Pocahontas Division of Island Creek Coal Company recently completed a year of competition by participating in an inter-company mine rescue and first aid meet held at corporate headquarters in Lexington, Ky. Teams from the four operating divisions of Island Creek competed in the event.

The team representing the Virginia Pocahontas No. 3 Mine captured first place in the mine rescue portion of the contest and the Virginia Pocahontas No. 1 team received a second place trophy in the combination mine rescue-first aid competition.

During 1979 the two teams entered seven contests, including the National Mine Rescue Contest in Louisville,

Ky., where the V. P. No. 1 team placed first in the combination mine rescue-first aid competition and third in the two-hour mine rescue event.

The V. P. No. 1 team also swept first place honors in the two-hour mine rescue, first aid, and combination events at both the Virginia Mining Institute Safety Day Program held in Blacksburg and the Big Sandy Mining Institute Mine Rescue Contest held in Prestonsburg, Ky. In addition, the V. P. No. 1 team won a first place trophy for first-aid competition at the Southern West Virginia Mine Rescue Contest held in Beckley, W. Va.

Both mine rescue teams are trained by Harold Stanley, division director of safety. Rudolph Belcher, division training instructor, serves as first aid trainer.



V. P. No. 3 Mine Rescue Team - Kneeling, L. to R., George King, Steve Hamro, Joel Norris, Harold Williamson. Standing, L. to R.; Danny Deel, Billy Foleno, Howard Rose, Glen Thompson.



V. P. No. 1 Mine Rescue Team - Kneeling, L. to R.; Russel Short, McDonald Hagy, Allen Gross. Standing, L. to R.; Jackie Perkins, Richard Stanley, Calvin Ward, Ricky Belcher.

Mine Rescue Contest Held

Three Buchanan County mine rescue teams received first place honors at the National Mine Rescue and First Aid Contest at Louisville, KY, on Sept. 20 and 21.

The contest is held every two years with more than 80 teams from all over the country competing. There are four events in the contest that includes a two-hour mine rescue, one-hour mine rescue, first aid and combination mine rescue and first aid.

Winning first place in the one-hour mine rescue was the Jewell Ridge team from Jewell Ridge Coal Corporation. Rick Arms is the captain.

Dominion Coal Company's B team of Vansant, Gary Prater, captain, won first place in the first aid contest. Dominion Coal is a subsidiary of Jewell Smokeless Coal Company.

Winner of the combination contest was the Virginia-Pocahontas No. 1 team of Island Creek Coal Company in Oakwood. Russell Short is the team captain.

Winning first place in the two-hour mine rescue contest was the National Pocahontas team of National Mines Corporation in Pineville, WV.

Virginia-Pocahontas No. 1 team of Island Creek Coal Company in Oakwood also took third place in the two-hour mine rescue.

The contest is sponsored by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, a part of the Department of Labor.

Mine Rescue Contest

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Jewell Smokeless Mine Rescue Team of Vansant, Va. will be here Sept. 20 and 21 to defend the championship it won two years ago at the National Mine Rescue and First-Aid Contest sponsored by the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

The two-hour mine rescue contest will be limited to 66 teams from the coal mining industry (teams in the metal - nonmetal and noncoal industries hold their contests in alternate years). The teams will be competing not only for the championship, but also for the \$5,000 Ansul Co. Scholarship which will be awarded after the contest.

Mine rescue teams are used not only to enter mines to rescue trapped miners and remove victims of accidents, but to also reopen mines. Under provisions of the Federal Mine Safety Health Act of 1977, each ground mine must have trapped mine rescue teams.

Entries may be submitted in writing or by wire on or before August 31, to Herschel H. Potter, secretary of the 1979 National Mine Rescue and First-Aid Contest, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Room 817, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Va. 22203.

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West Virginia Team Wins "World Series of Safety"

The National Pocahontas Team of the National Mines Corp., Pineville, W.Va., placed first in the two-hour coal mine rescue contest held Sept. 20-21 in Louisville, Ky., in competition with 77 other top teams in the Nation. The competition, held in alternate years, was part of the 1979 National Mine Rescue and First Aid Contest.

The winner received the first place trophy, a Congressional medallion and a \$5,000 scholarship donated by the Ansul Co., a manufacturer of firefighting equipment used in a number of mines.

The contest is known in the mining community as the "World Series of Safety" and the winner is designated as the top coal mine rescue team in America. The two-hour test and three other contests were sponsored by MSHA.

Competing teams were variously asked to solve rescue and recovery problems which might confront them in a real emergency. These included problems that normally would require either one hour or two hours, a series of first-aid problems, and a combination test of the two-hour and first aid contests.

Other companies sponsoring trophies were Mine Ventilation Systems, Inc.; National Mine Rescue Assn.; Joseph A. Holmes Safety Assn.; CSE Corp.; Fairchild, Inc.; National Mine Service Co.; Mine Safety Appliances Co.; and, Marion Health and Safety, Inc. In addition, state awards were awarded to winning teams from the respective states by the Kentucky Department of Mines and Minerals; the Pennsylvania Office

of Deep Mine Safety and that state's Department of Environmental Resources; the Tennessee Department of Mines; and West Virginia Department of Mines. MSHA sponsored the Congressional Medallion which went to all first-place teams.

Jewell Ridge Coal Co. of Jewell Ridge, Va., placed first in the one-hour contest. Dominion Coal Co.'s B Team of Vansant, Va., won the first-aid contest. The Combination Team of Emery Mining Corp., of Huntington, Utah, took first in the combination contest.

Final places in the contest in addition to the above-named winners were:

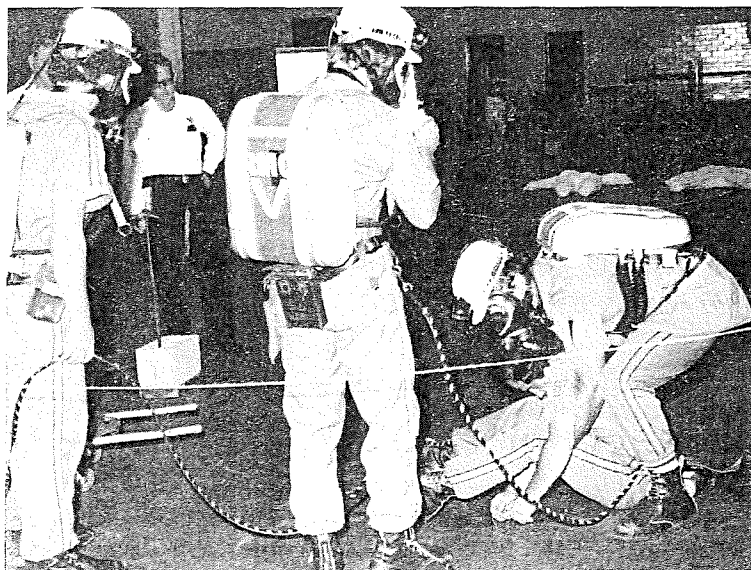
Two-hour contest—2. Combination Team, Emery Mining Corp., Huntington, Utah; 3. Virginia Pocahontas No. 1 Team, Island Creek Coal Co., Oakwood, Va.; 4. Leeco No. 1 Team, Leeco Inc., London, Ky.; 5. McComas B Team, Consolidation Coal Co., McComas, W.Va.

One-hour contest—2. McComas Team, Consolidation Coal Co., McComas, W.Va.; 3. Dante Team, Clinchfield Coal Co., Dante, Va.; 4. Leeco No. 2 Team, Leeco Inc., London, Ky.; 5. National Team, National Mines Corp., Pineville, W.Va.

First aid contest—2. Harewood Team, Allied Chemical Corp., Montgomery, W.Va.; 3. Combination Team, Emery Coal Co., Huntington, Utah; 4. Star Team, Peabody Coal Co., Graham, Ky.; 5. Alston No. 4 Team, Peabody Coal Co., Centertown, Ky.

Combination Contest—2. Virginia Pocahontas No. 1 Team, Island Creek Coal Co., Oakwood, Va.; 3. Star Team, Peabody Coal Co., Graham, Ky.; 4. Gauley Northern Team, Island Creek Coal Co., Craigsville, W.Va.; 5. B Team, Dominion Coal Co., Vansant, Va.

Awards were presented at a banquet held after the competition. Master of Ceremonies Herschel Potter said, "It was the most successful contest we have had. The cooperation of the teams and judges were excellent. The teams finished sooner than expected."



Coal mine rescue team rescues victim during the 1979 National Mine Rescue and First Aid Contest.

Safety finishes first in this contest

By PHIL NORMAN
Courier-Journal Farm Editor

"Retreat!" bellowed John Greenwell, trying to make himself heard through the breathing apparatus that covered his face.

"Retreat, captain," one of his men shouted back in acknowledgment of the urgent command.

Greenwell then led his mine-rescue team back through a labyrinth of white lines, yellow curtains and neatly lettered signs in the East Wing of the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center in Louisville.

The team carried a stretcher, on which they had strapped a coal miner who was pretending to have been injured in an explosion. The sound of heavy boots echoed through the wing as the team moved quickly to the entrance of the labyrinth, where the performance was being watched by enough spectators to fill a small grandstand set up for the occasion.

A few moments later, Greenwell led his team back onto the course, barking orders as they continued to explore a maze of lines, flimsy barriers and signs warning of cave-ins and other hazards. The quest for more "victims" didn't end until Greenwell detected explosive methane gas — actually contained safely in a test box

— and ordered his men to turn back.

The team and the spectators were from the Pyro Mining Co., Sturgis, Ky., where Greenwell is a safety director. The labyrinth was a mine-rescue test course, representing a disaster-stricken mine. And the event was the 1979 Mine Rescue and First-Aid Contest, known among coal-mine regulators as "the world series of safety."

The competition, sponsored by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, began yesterday with 77 teams from 10 states taking part in a "two-hour mine-rescue contest." It will end today, with other teams being tested on shorter rescue courses and in first-aid contests.

Although the contest is not new — it dates back to 1912 — it has taken on a new importance in the coal industry.

The mine-safety agency has proposed that coal companies be required to have two mine-rescue teams available for an emergency in any underground mine. The final version of the proposed regulation is to be announced by January. After that, coal companies would have six months to comply, according to Sam Stafford, a public-relations spokesman at the agency's office in Arlington, Va.

As a result, agency spokesmen said, rescue units are being formed, trained

and tested by companies that used to get by without them. Such companies have tended to rely on rescue teams from government agencies, said Frank O'Gorman, an agency spokesman at the contest.

The regulation has been proposed because "you need teams right on the spot that know the mines," O'Gorman said.

Conducted with military precision in the bland atmosphere of the East Wing, the contests have an air of unreality. But they can be a grim tests for team members.

The teams are timed as they map their way through a series of make-believe hazards. They have to know when to take readings for gas, how to react to smoke bombs ignited by contest officials, when to pretend to check for weak mine roofs, when to break through walls represented by the yellow curtains, when to set up partitions to block air currents, how far to go in each direction and when to turn back.

A mistake can be embarrassing to a team and the company it represents. And it can take points off the team's score, based on written tests, performances on the courses — 11 "mines" have been set up in the East and West wings — and other factors.

After the Pyro team finished its course and went to another part of the East Wing to pack its equipment, Greenwell kicked a wall, lightly, in mild disgust. He said later he was reacting to his failure to turn off a piece of rescue equipment after the contest. As a penalty for breaking a team rule, he would have to treat his teammates to a meal, the team captain said.

The contest itself went well, Greenwell said. "It was just all procedure."

Greenwell, 24, joined Pyro five years ago as a laborer. Now, like most of his teammates, he works mainly as a safety inspector. And he spends about 10 hours a week, including some of his own time on weekends, training with the rescue team.

The team wasn't formed until last year and has yet to be called to a real emergency, said Tom Steele, safety supervisor for Pyro, which has four mines in Webster and Union counties. He said a backup team will be organized soon.

Contest scores will be announced and prizes awarded tonight at a mine-safety banquet at the fairgrounds. The prizes, furnished by coal companies, will include a \$5,000 scholarship that can be used by team members or their children.

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aquachip1
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Mine-safety contest winners are announced

A team from the National Pocahontas Mine of the National Mines Corp. of Pineville, W.Va., was the first-prize winner in the National Mine Rescue and First Aid contest, a two-day event completed yesterday at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

The National Mines team won the "two-hour mine rescue" event in the contest sponsored by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration. The team won the top prize, a \$5,000 scholarship that can be divided among team members or their children.

Other winners in the two-hour contest were:

Emery Mining Corp., Huntington, Utah, second; Virginia Pocahontas No. 1 Mine, Island Creek Coal Co., Oakwood, Va., third; Leeco Inc., No. 1 team, London, Ky., fourth; McComas B team, Consolidation Coal Co., McComas, W.Va., fifth.

Other events and their winners were:

One-hour Mine Rescue Contest:

Jewell Ridge Coal Corp., Jewell Ridge Va., first; Consolidation Coal Co., McComas team, McComas, W. Va., second; Dante team, Clinchfield Coal Co., Dante, Va., third; Leeco Inc., No. 2 team, London, Ky., fourth; and National Pocahontas team, National Mines Corp., Pineville, W. Va., fifth.

First aid contest:

Dominion Coal Co., B team, Vansant, Va., first; Allied Chemical Corp, Harewood Mine, Montgomery, W. Va., second; Emery Mining Corp., Huntington, Utah, third; Peabody Coal Co., Star Mine, Graham, Ky., fourth; and Peabody Coal Co., Alston Team No. Four, Centertown, Ky., fifth.

Combination event — (Teams participated in the two-hour mine rescue contest and the first-aid contest):

Island Creek Coal Co., Virginia Pocahontas No. 1 Mine, Oakwood, Va., first; Peabody Coal Co., Star Mine team, Graham, Ky., second; Island Creek Coal Co., Gauley District team, Craigsville, W. Va., third; Dominion Coal Co., B team, Vansant, Va., fourth; and Ranger Fuel Corp., Beckley, W. Va., fifth.

MSHA first-aid contest slated

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) will hold its 1979 National Mine Rescue and First-Aid Contest—known as the World Series of Safety—on September 20 and 21 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, Louisville, Ky.

The two-hour mine rescue contest will be limited to 66 teams from the coal mining industry. (Teams in the metal/nonmetal, non-coal, mining industries hold their contests in alternate years.) The teams will be competing not only for the championship, but also for the \$5,000 Ansul Company Scholarship which will be awarded after the contest. The same team may enter the mine rescue and first-aid contests to compete for combination prizes, provided the first-aid team is composed of members of the mine rescue team. Jewell Smokeless Mine Rescue Team of Vansant, Va., will be at Louisville to defend the championship it won two years ago.

Each mine rescue team is composed of seven persons, with five working members. During the two-hour competition, the teams face simulated problems they might encounter in mining coal seams, such as fire, gas or smoke, and water. Teams must provide their own breathing apparatus, safety shoes, protective hat and cap lamp. The "mine" must be mapped as teams proceed through it. Victims must be moved to safety immediately upon discovery and their positions noted on the map. If any team member en-

counters serious difficulty, the team must leave the mine site immediately because the safety of the team is of first consideration in any mine rescue operation. A one-hour mine rescue contest will also be conducted.

Teams in the first-aid contest consist of six persons, including a captain and a patient. Team members will be tested for proficiency in artificial respiration, control of bleeding and the use of tourniquets, physical shock and the use of stimulants, wounds, burns or scalds, fractures, dislocations, splints, bandaging and transportation of victims. Each team will be given five or more problems to solve, with additional problems to break any ties.

Mine rescue teams are used not only to enter mines to rescue trapped miners and remove victims of accidents but also to reopen mines. Under provisions of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, each underground mine must have trained mine rescue teams. The mine rescue teams comprise both supervisors and miners.

Entries may be submitted in writing or by wire on or before August 31 to Herschel H. Potter, secretary, 1979 National Mine Rescue and First-Aid Contest, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Room 817, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Va., 22203. Teams competing in regional elimination contests after August 31 may submit entries after that date.