

## UMR team finishes 36th in mine rescue contest

ROLLA — A mine rescue team from the University of Missouri-Rolla finished 36th overall in the 1998 Metal and Nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest July 8- 9, in Las Vegas, Nev.

The UMR team competed against 40 industry mine rescue teams in a simulated mine disaster situation, which was set up and judged by representatives of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration. The teams were rated on how well they follow basic rules and regulations in carrying out a rescue.

Members of UMR's Mine Rescue Team are: Stephen Kan of Rolla, Mo., a graduate student in mining engineering; Aaron Phipps of Chrisman, Ill., a senior in mining engineering; Seth Puls of Boone, N.C., a sophomore in mining engineering; Nicholas Schupp of Perryville, Mo., a senior in metallurgical engineering; Scott Gerbes of Jefferson City, Mo., a junior in mining engineering; and Adolph Minert of Farmington, N.M., a senior in mining engineering.

UMR is the only university in the United States to have a mine rescue team.

Winner of the 1998 Metal and Nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest is FMC (Food and Mineral Corp.) of Green River, Wyo.

Other mine rescue teams from Missouri who participated in the contest are Doe Run of Viburnum and Asarco of Bunker.

## FMC team wins Vegas competition

FMC Corp.'s Red Team from Green River, Wyo., scored highest in a competition of 41 of the nation's top underground mine rescue teams — including eight from Nevada — this week at the 1998 National Metal and Nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Other high-scorers in the event sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration included General Chemical Soda Ash Partners' Black Team from Green River, Morton International Inc.'s team from Grand Salinas, Texas, and Kiewit's Yucca Mountain team from the Las Vegas area.

In addition to Yucca Mountain, other Nevada mines competing were: Barrick Bullfrog (Beatty), Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc.'s Meikle Mine (Elko) 2 teams, Bechtel Nevada (Las Vegas), Getchell Gold Corp., (Golconda), Independence Mining Co. Inc., (Elko) and Newmont Gold Co.'s Carlin underground mines.

One aspect of the contest required six-member teams to solve a hypothetical problem while being timed and observed by judges. This problem tested the miners' knowledge of poisonous gases, low oxygen levels, unstable roofs and walls and first aid.

In the bench competition, benchmen — those individuals charged with maintaining rescue equipment — had to thoroughly inspect breathing devices that were purposely tampered with and correct those defects as quickly as possible, according to MSHA.

Also at the event, for the first time, MSHA honored seven individuals regarded as exceptional in the field of mine rescue. Those nominated for the Metal and Nonmetal Mine Rescue Hall of Fame included:

- ◆ Harry Hall Anderson, a leader in efforts to upgrade the safety program at International Salt Co.'s Avery Island Mine in Louisiana following a disastrous fire at Cargill Salt's Belle Isle Mine in March 1968.

- ◆ Leo M. Bradshaw, a miner and mine rescue team member with advanced training, who fought several underground fires in the Grants, N.M., region during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

- ◆ James Chailland, who began his mine rescue career at Stauffer Chemical Co. (now OCI Wyoming, L.P.), Big Island Mine, in 1963. From 1970 to 1990 he was responsible for training mine rescue teams that won national contests in 1975, 1982 and 1986.

- ◆ The late Harold "Buster" Mosele, who as the personnel manager and safety director for International Salt's Avery Island Mine, initiated and administered a thorough upgrading of the mine's safety program following the disastrous fire at Cargill Salt's Belle Isle Mine.

- ◆ The late Thomas Overy Jr., who began working in underground coal mines near Rock Springs, Wyo., when he was 16. He was a member of Union Pacific Coal Co.'s mine rescue team for more than 30 years, participating in rescue operations at mines in Hanna and Cumberland, Wyo. In 1970, he was appointed deputy state mine inspector of Wyoming.

- ◆ J.D. Pitts, whose mining and government career spanned nearly 40 years, played a leading role in shaping the mining industry's ability to respond to mine emergencies. Pitts retired from MSHA in January 1996.

- ◆ Jack L. Squires, who began his mine rescue career on Texas Gulf's Moab, Utah, team in 1964, eventually serving on every team position. He joined Stauffer Chemical Co. in Green River in 1972.

## 1998 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest

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## 1998 MINE RESCUE CONTEST WINNER



Congratulations to the IMC Kalium Mine Rescue Team for their success at the 1998 National Metal and Nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest recently held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The team brought home the 6th place trophy after competing against 40 other teams from across the nation, including 6 teams from New Mexico. The competition included underground rescue simulation, gas testing, and written exam. Team members are: Joe Parker, Captain; Tommy Williams, Co-captain; Kevin Cummins, Benchman; Terry Walker, Gas Tester; Kathy Littleton, Map man; Fernando Santana,

First Aid; David Miller, First Alternate; Paul Mager, Second Alternate; David Tackett, Trainer; Tommy Lawson, Coordinator.

The professionalism and commitment of each individual team member has contributed to the success of the IMC Kalium Mine Rescue Team. Mine rescue teams complete in contests judged by Mine Safety and Health Administration officials to maintain skill levels for emergency response to a major mine incident or disaster.



**IMC Kalium.**

<http://www.msha.gov/S&HINFO/RESCUE/CONTEST/1998/STANDING/MR6.HTM>

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Contest

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## **FMC rescue team wins contest**

**GREEN RIVER** — A team from FMC Corporation's soda ash plant and trona mine west of Green River has placed first in a national mine rescue contest in Las Vegas, according to Mine Safety and Health Administration officials.

Another southwest Wyoming soda ash mine rescue team also placed second in the bi-annual competition, which ran July 8-9, MSHA officials said.

FMC's Red Team won first place in the 1998 National Metal and Nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest, sponsored by the Department of Labor and MSHA.

General Chemical Soda Ash Partners, Inc.'s Black Team placed second and Morton International, Inc.'s Grand Saline Team from Texas placed third.

1998 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest

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