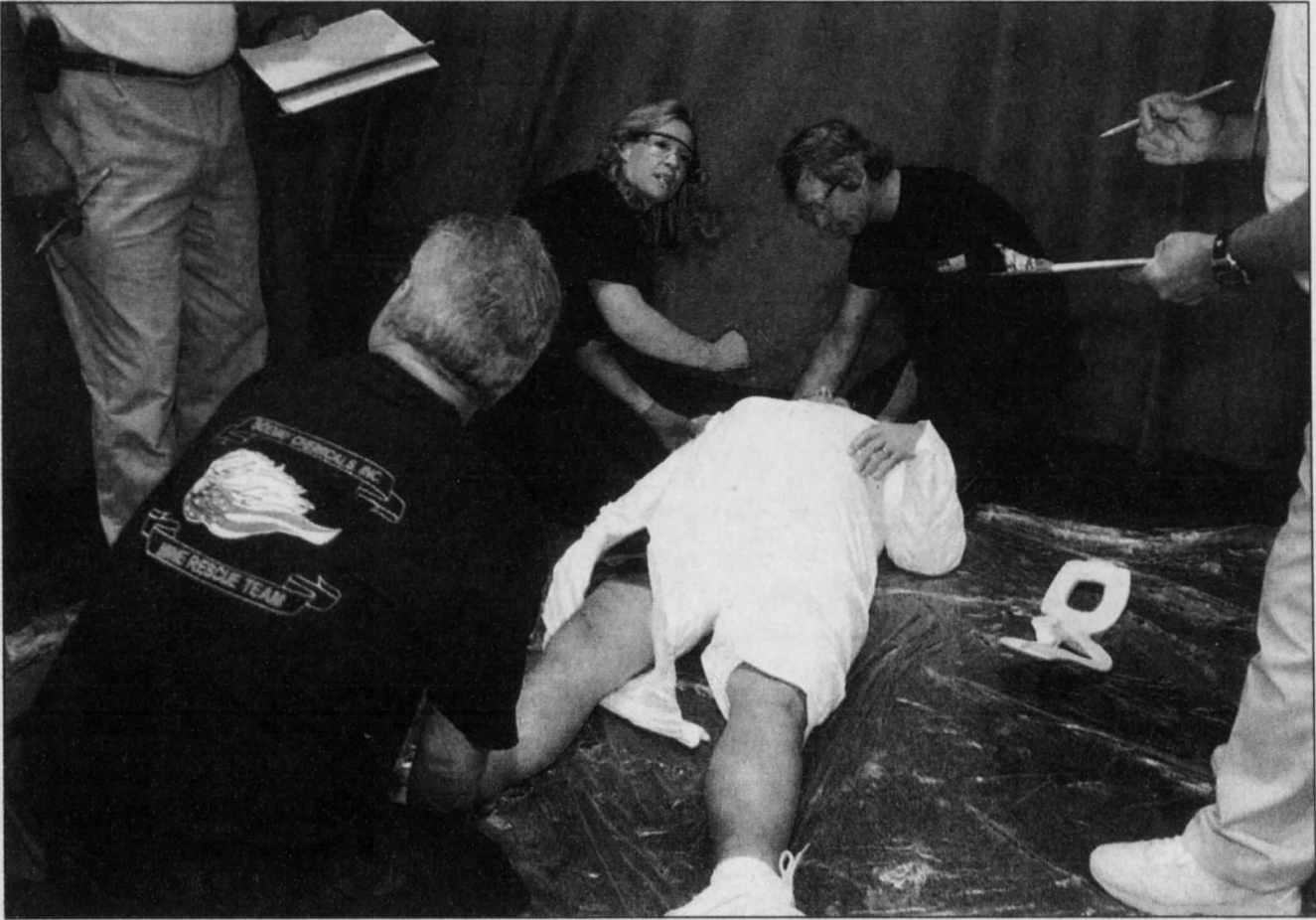




Andy Barron/Reno Gazette-Journal

HELPING: Joe McDonald (front) Jaimie McGillis (center) Jerry Huntington of Solvay Chemicals Inc. of Green River, Wyo., compete in the first-aid contest at the National Metal and Nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

Teamwork key in mine rescue competition

By Amy Trang
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Bill Mehle of the OCi Wyoming Blue Team didn't feel much pressure at the gas competition as he analyzed and fixed the gauges measuring the amount of four different gases in the atmosphere.

In fact, after Mehle's 30-minute test Wednesday, he was all smiles and ready to compete in today's team field contest finals. Although Mehle's goal is to place well in his category, he just enjoys being able to compete.

"I'm coming here to learn,"

Mehle said. "Each year I come in to learn and maybe I get a little bit closer to getting the trophy. My team knows I'm just trying to learn the most I can."

The three-day Metal and Nonmetal National Mine Rescue Contest at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center has 29 teams from across the nation competing in simulated emergency situations, testing their skills in the field, gas, benchman and first-aid areas. The top 12 teams from the first two days compete in the finals today.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor Mine Safety

and Health Administration, the competition takes place every two years. This is the second time the event has been in Reno.

About 500 attendees are estimated at the contest, said Jim Petrie, district manager of the MSHA Northeastern district office.

Individuals fix and stabilize breathing apparatuses in the benchman competition.

Tom Senecal was the benchman competitor for the Newmont Eastern Operations team after nine years of experience with the devices. He had 30 minutes to test and fix any prob-

lems with the breathing tanks, vital for mine rescue team safety.

"Before we go into a mine, we have to check this device," Senecal said. "My team took turns putting bugs in the machine last night, so I would be ready to repair anything."

In the first-aid contests, a three-man team is tested at three stations: CPR, patient assessment and wounds, burns and transportation. The team has 20 minutes to aid the "victim" at each station.

See **RESCUE** on 3D

2004 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue
Contest

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usmra_rob
Nov 1, 2025

Rescue/Tests six-man teams' ability to search and map mines

From 1D

"All our personnel has to have first-aid training," said Joel Karasik of the Bechtel SAIC Yucca Mountain team. "We're working in an underground environment a lot and we have to know how to save people's lives."

Also, the field competition tests six-man teams on their ability to search and map a mine.

Each team starts at a score of zero. For each contest, deductions are based on inaccurate pro-

■ *'We're working in an underground environment a lot and we have to know how to save people's lives.'*

Joel Karasik

member of Bechtel SAIC Yucca Mountain team

cedures and time limits. The team and individuals with the least number of deductions will win their category and overall competition.

"We do this because it keeps our teams ready in an emergency situation," said Dave D. Lauriski, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. "We hope our

DETAILS

What: 2004 National Metal and Nonmetal Rescue Contest finals

When: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. today

Where: Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 4590 S. Virginia St.

Details: (775) 827-7647

teams are never called to do this in real life, but if they do, we want to make sure they are prepared."

2004 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest

Clipped By:

usmra_rob

Nov 1, 2025

WIPP Silver mine rescue team wins 'Overall Contest' award at competition

By Victoria Parker-Stevens
Current-Argus Staff Writer

CARLSBAD — The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Silver mine rescue team won the "Overall Contest" award out of 29 teams in a recent national competition.

It was the second time a WIPP team has taken home the award. The Silver team won it at the last national contest two years ago, with more than half of the same team members.

The three-day 2004 Metal and Non-metal National Mine Rescue Contest in Reno, Nev., in mid-July was sponsored by the Mine Safety and Health Admin-

istration and had more than 800 participants.

To win the overall award, a team must do well in multiple categories, according to a WIPP press release. WIPP Silver finished the competition with the most overall points.

As they did two years ago, WIPP Silver finished second in the team field competition. Team members Curtis Sanders took second in the benchman competition; Ben Zimmerly, Nadine Kuhn and Jim Pearce earned fourth in first aid; and team captain Greg Sensibaugh finished fifth in the gas contest.

See **SILVER**, Page 12A

2004 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue
Contest

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Nov 1, 2025

Silver

From Page 1A

MSHA experts evaluated the contest's team and individual events. Teams began with the same number of points, with deductions taken for mistakes. There was also a written component.

A Reno convention center was segmented with curtains to form areas of a "mine."

In the field event, teams had to identify and respond to a mock rescue situation, which could involve things like fire, water and ventilation problems. Individual events tested each team's specialist in fresh air, first aid and multi-gas identification.

Other area teams that did well were the IMC Potash Responders, which placed third in the first aid contest and Intrepid Mine Rescue, which was fifth.

The WIPP Silver team also took home honors for best overall team at the Southern Regional Mine Rescue competition in May. Sixteen teams competed in New Iberia, La., from



Submitted photo

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Silver mine rescue team poses at the 2004 Metal and Nonmetal National Mine Rescue Contest in Reno, Nev., where they won the "Overall Contest" award. Back row, from left, David Ripley Deena Cantrell, Curtis Sanders, Mike Proctor and Andy Cooper. Front row, from left, Buddy Webb Greg Sensibaugh and Jamey Smith.

New Mexico, Texas, Missouri, Ohio and Montana.

In the field event, the Silver team took second and the WIPP Blue team third. The Blue

team took first place in the first aid contest, and Silver's Curtis Sanders III placed second in the benchman's contest.

"Both teams practice and

WIPP TEAMS

■ Silver team members were Captain Greg Sensibaugh, David Ripley, Mike Proctor, Andy Cooper, Jamey Smith, Curtis Sanders, Buddy Webb and Deena Cantrell.

■ Blue team members were Captain Gary Kessler, Joel Howard, Dave Sjomelling, Ben Zimmerly, Edgar Keysar, Joe Baca, Nadine Kuhn, and Jim Pearce.

train very hard throughout the year, and we are fortunate to have them at WIPP," said Buddy Webb, WIPP emergency response coordinator, in a press release. "Being part of the mine rescue team goes above and beyond their job functions."

"I couldn't be more proud of all our employees on both WIPP Silver and WIPP Blue teams," said Steve Warren, president and general manager of Washington TRU Solutions, the management and operations contractor at WIPP. "Their enthusiasm and hard work reinforces the fact that safety is the No. 1 priority at WIPP."

2004 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest

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Nov 1, 2025

Mining conference/contest comes to Reno

By **Ryan Randazzo**
and **Thomas J. Walsh**
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Teams compete in Reno this week as part of the National Metal and Non-metal Mine Rescue Contest, bringing competitors from across the country.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration is hav-

**Look
ahead**

estimate attendance at 900.

The contest is Tuesday through Thursday, for which nearly 30 teams have signed up.

In the field competition, six-member

ing a conference at the Peppermill Hotel-Casino and Reno-Sparks Convention Center, and tourism officials

teams must solve a hypothetical mine emergency problem while judges rate them on how well they adhere to mine rescue procedures and how quickly they complete specific tasks.

In the benchman contests, individuals who maintain rescue equipment must inspect breathing devices and gas

See **AHEAD** on **2E**

2004 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest

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Nov 1, 2025



MINING: Wayne Courtney, Gerry Goodel and Mike Rutherford, from left to right, demonstrate their breathing apparatus in the 2002 National-International Mine Rescue Contest in Reno. The contest returns to Reno this week. Associated Press file

Ahead/Another group of young athletes return to area

From 1E

equipment thoroughly, and correct all defects as quickly as possible. In the first-aid contest, emergency medical technicians tackle real-life scenarios.

"Mine rescue contests provide an opportunity to develop and hone the specialized skills of mine rescue teams and their members," Dave D. Lauriski, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health, said in a statement. "We conduct these contests to ensure rescue teams are well prepared if they are called upon to assist fellow miners in danger during a real mine emergency."

Nevada is the third-largest producer of gold behind South Africa and Australia.

The week also is shaping up to be an active one for national business headlines, with major corporate crime figures — notably Martha Stewart and her former stockbroker — facing days in court, or worse.

Earnings season starts to get in gear, with many public companies reporting their financials. The companies are listed below with their accompanying per-share profit estimates, provided by Thomson First Call.

Today: Media General, Intel (27 cents per share), Johnson & Johnson (79 cents), Merrill Lynch (\$1.09) and Yum! Brands (52 cents).

Wednesday: AAA Nevada will release its monthly gasoline price survey, expected to show still-high prices at the pump, but down slightly from the spring's record levels.

The Nevada Gaming Control Board meets in Las Vegas.

Earnings: Apple Computer (15 cents) and Bank of America (\$1.74).

Thursday: With one group of young athletes out of town (from the first Volleyball Festival to be conducted in the region two weeks ago), another smaller group is set

at the RSCVA offices in the Reno Town Mall.

In Washington, the Labor Department reports on the Producer Price Index for June and on weekly jobless claims, the Commerce Department announces May business inventories, the Federal Reserve releases industrial production figures for June and mortgage firm Freddie Mac reports on mortgage rates.

In New York, Enron's bankruptcy judge is expected to rule on whether to confirm the company's reorganization plan.

Earnings: Citigroup (97 cents), IBM (\$1.12), Marriott International (61 cents), Nokia (18 cents), PepsiCo (61 cents), Southwest Airlines (16 cents), United Health Group (92 cents) and Wachovia Corp. (96 cents).

Friday: In New York, Martha Stewart and former stockbroker Peter Bacanovic are to appear in court for their rescheduled sentencing. The two are accused of

2004 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest

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Andy Barron/Reno Gazette-Journal

RENO-SPARKS CONVENTION CENTER: The Barrick Gold Team from Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc. in Elko looks at a map Tuesday as members compete in the National Metal and Nonmetal Mine Rescue Competition.

Mining event creates competition, teamwork

By Amy Trang

RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Nearly 30 mine rescue teams from across the nation tested their skills at Tuesday's 2004 National Metal and Nonmetal Rescue Contest at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration, the three-day competition allows teams to practice solving emergency situations in a competitive atmosphere.

"It's a good experience," said Steve Roberts of the General Chemical mine rescue team from Wyoming. "We like coming here

COMING UP

What: 2004 National Metal and Nonmetal Rescue Contest.

When: 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. today-Thursday.

Where: Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 4590 S. Virginia St.

Details: (775) 827-7647.

to compete and we learn from different teams about their procedures and what they do. It's fun."

Five Nevada teams are competing: Bar-

rick Goldstrike Mine, Newmont Eastern Nevada Operations and two from Queenstake Resources Ltd., all of Elko, along with Bechtel SAIC Co. from Las Vegas.

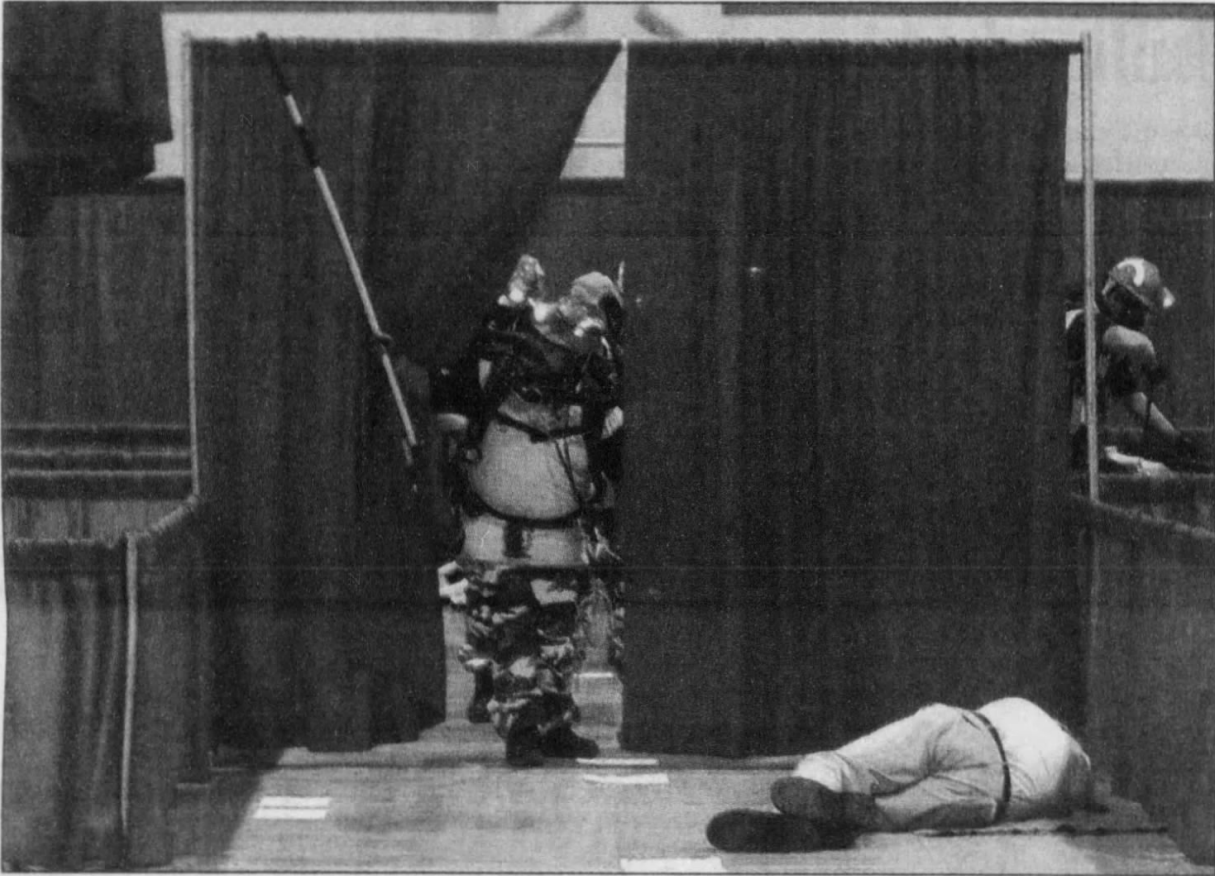
One category is the field competition, where six-man rescue teams must solve a mine emergency problem. Teams have 2½ hours to extinguish or seal any fires, account for missing miners, and explore and map the mine.

Red curtains and metal poles simulate a Roman pillar mine. Signs on the floor signal a drop in oxygen levels or other barriers.

See **MINE** on 6D

2004 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest

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Nov 1, 2025



Andy Barron/Reno Gazette-Journal

CONTEST: The Barrick Gold Team from Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc. in Elko competes in the National Metal and Nonmetal Mine Rescue Competition Tuesday.

Mine/Top 12 teams will compete in finals with winners announced at awards banquet

From 10

Judges grade the teams on their procedures and quickness.

Victor Harrell, Newmont's team trainer and health/safety representative, said teamwork is vital in rescue situations.

"If you're not going to work as a team, you might as well not be here," Harrell said. "Everybody is learning

as a team, working together as a team."

Two other contests are first aid and benchman. For benchman, individuals must inspect breathing devices and gas equipment in a timed environment. In the first-aid competition, teams will be judged on their response to a medical scenario.

The top 12 teams will compete in the finals. The winners

will be announced at Thursday night's awards banquet at the Peppermill Hotel-Casino in south Reno.

Although each team is vying for first place, that doesn't spoil the camaraderie.

"It's a tight-knit group," Harrell said. "If any team forgets something, another team would give it to them. We'd give them the shirt off our backs if we had to."

2004 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest

Clipped By:
usmra_rob
Nov 1, 2025

Page 6, The Mountain Echo, Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Doe Run benchmen receive top honors at national competition

Doe Run Company employees Garry Moore Jr. and Ricky Martin won top honors at the 2004 Metal and Non-Metal National Mine Rescue competition held July 13-15 in Reno, Nevada. Moore, a Sweetwater Mine roofman, and Martin, a driller at Casteel Mine, brought home first place and second place National Champion trophies, respectively, in the BG-174 Benchman Contest, sponsored by the Mine Safety

and Health Administration (MSHA).

Mine rescue contests are designed to sharpen skills and test the knowledge of team members called to respond to a real mine emergency. The contests require team members to solve hypothetical problems while being timed and judged according to complex competition rules.

"When you watch a mine rescue contest, you can't help but marvel at the phys-

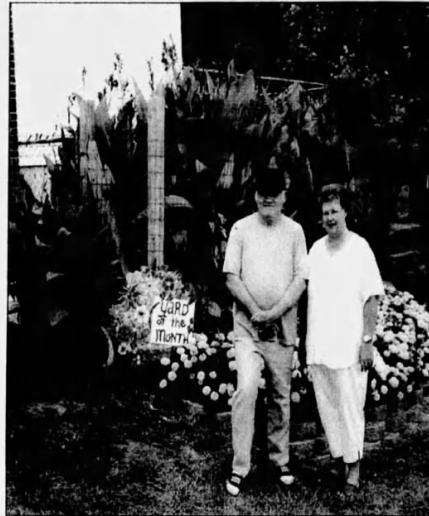
ical and emotional effort that these men and women expend," said J. Davitt McAteer, assistant labor secretary for mine safety and health. "These contests are treated like reality, since mine rescue teams never know when they'll be called to rescue injured or trapped colleagues."

In the BG-174 Benchman competition, participants were given 30 minutes to inspect pre-tampered breathing devices and make immediate corrections. Because these devices are vital for mine rescue team safety, errors can be fatal. Competing against 29 other teams, Moore and Martin rank among the most effective rescuers in the nation.

"We participate in the competitions to sharpen our knowledge and training because it emulates the high-pressure environment within the mines," said Moore. "Ricky and I are ecstatic about our wins at a national level. Most importantly, we are even more confident in our abilities, should (we) assist in a real mine emergency."

Mine rescue training began in the United States in 1910, the same year the U.S. Bureau of Mines was created. Joseph A. Holmes, the bureau's first director, sought a training vehicle to provide the mining industry with a cadre of mine rescue specialists prepared to respond to mine disasters.

Training eventually evolved into local, regional and national contests. The National Metal and Non-Metal competition alternates every other year with the National Coal Industry competition. For details on the 2004 competition, go to www.msha.gov.



South Iron August Yard of the Month

The August Yard of the Month at South Iron, sponsored by the South Iron Community Betterment Association, went to Travis and Linda Shockley-Watson, who reside on Allen Street in Annapolis.

**One Vote Counts
I NEED YOURS!**

DID YOU KNOW...

IN 1776 ONE VOTE GAVE AMERICA THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTEAD OF GERMAN

**LISA (STRANGE) YANCEY
FOR COUNTY CLERK**

Lisa Strange, Yancey Committee, 4001 S. 1st St., Annapolis, MD 21403
Correction from 9/1 Edition of The Mtn Echo

2004 metal and nonmetal Mine Rescue
Contest

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usmra rob
Nov 1, 2025