Do You Understand Mine Emergencies?



Are You Prepared for a Mine Emergency?

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

MODULE 6: BREATHABLE AIR SAFE HAVENS/REFUGE CHAMBERS

PENN STATE MINER TRAINING PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA
2008



MINER TRAINING PROGRAM

DO YOU UNDERSTAND MINE EMERGENCIES?

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A MINE EMERGENCY?

Participant's Guide

MODULE 6: BREATHABLE AIR SAFE HAVENS/REFUGE CAMBERS

Mark Radomsky Joseph Flick Joeseph DeSalvo Larry Grayson & Raja Ramani

Funded by DOL, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA Grant 00331235)

Preface

The history of underground coal in the United States is notable for its successes and failures. In the distant past, coal played a prominent role in our industrial revolution, rail transportation, iron and steel making, and heating needs. Most recently, it has been the source for affordable electricity, and for a myriad of other fuels and products. Extracting and processing coal is challenging, and the miners who work in the industry work in one of the Nation's most hazardous occupations.

Mine emergencies, such as mine explosions, fires, and inundations have been all too common. Too many miners have lost their lives over the years, and many more have suffered serious injuries doing the job that typically provides challenge, high wages, and good benefits.

Recent mine emergencies, such as Jim Walter Resources No. 5 Mine, Sago Mine, Aracoma Alma Mine No 1, and the Darby Mine No. 1 have reminded us that continuous safety and continuous safety improvement is our goal—a challenge to every miner.

Acknowledgements

This material was produced under grant number 00331235 from the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. It does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

The training program, titled, *Do you understand mine emergencies? Are you prepared for a mine emergency*? is the result of a 2007/2008 MSHA, Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grant. This grant, one of several awarded in 2007 by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, was awarded to the Penn State Miner Training program on September 30, 2007.

The program was the result of a cooperative effort between many mining stakeholders, and consists of an achieved webcast, titled, *Escape and survive*, and the training program referred to above.

These materials are available for a limited time at www.minerstownhall.org, or through the MSHA Academy at www.msha.gov.

We encourage you to help us improve this program. Please don't hesitate to contact us at 814.865.7472, or by contacting any of the authors (See Appendix B).

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The training program, titled, *Do you understand mine emergencies? Are you prepared for a mine emergency?* was prepared to help miners deal with mine emergencies. The purpose of the training program is to improve your capability to survive a mine emergency, primarily through mine emergency preparedness (MEP). Surviving an emergency depends on many factors, such as size of the mine, location of miners, the scope of the incident, the amount of energy released, the effectiveness of emergency plans, training and good decision-making. Some factors in an emergency can't be controlled. What you can control is your knowledge and skills in emergency preparedness and response. By improving your knowledge of emergency principles, emergency skills, and decision-making capabilities, more miners will be able to survive mine emergencies.

Format/content

This training program uses Internet webcast technology and CD ROM based PowerPoint presentations, an Instructor's and Participant's Guide. The webcast can be accessed through the Internet at www.minerstownhall.org or played from a CD. During the webcast, various expert panelists will comment on mine emergency subjects. Informational slides appear to the right of the speakers to summarize most of the main points. In addition, a series of video clips are "rolled in" at the appropriate times. These realistic clips, shot on location at a working mine, represent a simulated mine emergency and response, and feature donning/switching of the SCSR, and the use of directional lifelines.

This training program consists of six training modules that address the following major mine emergency preparedness issues:

- Mine emergencies
- Emergency response plans
- Self-contained self-rescuers
- Emergency communications and miner tracking
- Escape and evacuation
- Breathable air safe havens/refuge chambers

Each module has a pre-test and a post-test (See Appendix A). You may be given a short test before each lesson to evaluate your knowledge of key points. You may also be given a slightly longer test at the conclusion of the module to evaluate if you grasped the key concepts of the module. If you missed some questions on the pre-test, pay close attention to those parts of the training module.

A few tips to help you with the learning process:

- Take notes
- Ask questions
- Apply your training to your mine
- Talk with other miners
- Think about the layout of your mine during the training
- Make suggestions to improve training
- Ask yourself (and discuss with other miners): "If an emergency were to occur at my mine, how would I apply these principles to escape or evacuate?"

Application

Knowing how to react in an emergency is critical to your survival. Coal mining is serious business! Training is also serious business! Take your training very seriously! Pay attention to training on mine emergencies, and take it very seriously! Thoroughly prepare yourself by finding out about your mine's most important mine emergency preparedness procedures. In a real emergency your training and your knowledge could help save your life. A few tips to help you think about how to react to mine emergencies:

- Know the contents of your mine Emergency Response Plan.
- Know the contents of your emergency escape and fire-fighting plans.
- Know the layout of your mine and where escapeways, directional lifelines, emergency supplies, extra SCSR's and refuge chambers are located.
- Know how to report an emergency and provide accurate information.
- Know how to don and switch SCSR units.
- Know where to meet at the first sign of an emergency.
- Know how your mine tracking system works.
- Know how refuge chambers operate.
- Know where you are at all times in the mine, and how to escape from where you are located.

Of course, the best solution to mine emergencies is to have no emergencies! Your daily efforts to work safely, play by the rules, report problems and take care of yourself and your coworkers can go a long way to make "no emergencies" a reality. You must be prepared however for the unexpected and emergencies are unexpected.

Best wishes to you in your training and your mining career. Thank you for all you do to make mining a safer place to work! Never let a chance for something that could save your life pass you by. Learn all you can about mine emergency response! What you know could save your life, or help someone else save yours!

Module 6

Breathable Air Safe Havens/Refuge Chambers

Participant's Guide

Purpose of the Module

Increase the knowledge and skills of the miner to understand breathable air safe havens/refuge chambers, and their role in the escape, evacuation, survival and rescue phases of mine emergency/disaster response.

Pre-test

Following the introduction of this module, your instructor will ask you to complete a pre-test. The pre-test will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of this topic.

Post-test

After completing this module, the instructor will ask you to complete a post-test. By comparing the group scores between the pre- and post-test, the instructor can demonstrate whether the training was effective.

Evaluation

Following completion of the course, you will be asked to provide feedback to the instructor on whether you believe the course achieved its purpose. You will also be asked several questions regarding the design, and implementation of the course. An evaluation form for will be used for this purpose.

Introduction	Notes
DO YOU UNDERSTAND MINE EMERGENCIES? ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A MINE EMERGENCY?	
MODULE 6: BREATHABLE AIR SAFE HAVENS/REFUGE CHAMBERS	
R. LARRY GRAYSON & RAJ RAMANI PENN STATE UNIVERSITY	
PURPOSE OF THE MODULE	
INCREASE THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS OF THE MINER TO UNDERSTAND BREATHABLE AIR SAFE HAVENS/REFUGE CHAMBERS, AND THEIR ROLE IN THE ESCAPE, EVACUATION, SURVIVAL AND RESCUE PHASES OF MINE EMERGENCY/DISASTER RESPONSE.	
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	
 DESCRIBE THE GENERAL PROCEDURES AFTER AN EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DISCOVERED: CONTROL OF EMERGENCY 	
PREPARING FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS INCLUDING ESCAPE, EVACUATION, SURVIVAL, AND RESCUE	

Introduction Notes			
LEARNING OBJECTIVE	S PENSIALE		
2. DESCRIBE THE TYPES OF SURVIVA PROCEDURES IF ONE CANNOT ESC EVACUATE:			
BREATHABLE AIR SAFE HAVENS (REFUGE CHAMBERS	DR .		
• MOVE TO SAFER AREAS OF THE N	MINE		
• PAST PROCEDURES OF BARRICA	DING		
LEARNING OBJECTIVE	S PENSIAIE		
3. DESCRIBE THE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS REGARDING BRE. AIR SAFE HAVENS OR REFUGE CH			
 CONSTRUCTION 			
 PROVISIONS INSIDE THE SAFE HARMBER 	AVEN OR		
 LOCATION OF THE SAFE HAVENS CHAMBERS 	OR		
TIME PERIOD APPROVED FOR SA HAVENS OR REFUGE CHAMBERS			
LEARNING OBJECTIVE	PENNSTATE S		
4. DISCUSS THE ROLE OF BREATHAI SAFE HAVENS OR REFUGE CHAMI THE CONSEQUENCES OF DECIDIN REFUGE	BERS AND		
5. DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PERSONAL DECISION/ROLE IN THIS TO SEEK REFUGE			

Important Points Notes Be prepared to discuss the difference between escape SAFELY GETTING OUT OF THE MINE IN and survive. AN EMERGENCY Definitions and Discussion List some mine design ✓ ESCAPE features that promote ✓ EVACUATE evacuation, escape and survival...some possible ✓ SURVIVE responses: ✓ RESCUE Why is escape the first priority? SAFELY GETTING OUT OF THE MINE IN AN EMERGENCY Discuss A. ASSESS RISK OF ESCAPE 1. DECISION THAT ESCAPE IS TOO **DANGEROUS** Think about how you would SAFELY GETTING OUT OF THE MINE IN AN EMERGENCY get information to make good decisions in an emergency ✓ THE CHOICE OF SELECTING A REFUGE OPTION DEPENDS UPON THE FOLLOWING: a. KNOWLEDGE OF EMERGENCY SITUATION b. KNOWING THAT ESCAPE ROUTES ARE BLOCKED c. KNOWING LOCATIONS OF BREATHABLEAIR SAFE HAVENS/REFUGE CHAMBERS, AND FEASIBILITY OF REACHING ONE OF THEM

Important Points Notes Be prepared to ID the SAFELY GETTING OUT OF THE MINE IN location of your safe havens. AN EMERGENCY Be prepared to show the ✓ SELECTINGA REFUGE OPTION... instructor the locations of d. LOCATION OF BARRICADE MATERIALS refuge chambers on the mine map d. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER POSSIBLE SAFEAREAS IN THE MINE Be prepared to describe the SURVIVAL: location of your safe havens **BREATHABLE AIR SAFE HAVENS** (if applicable). ✓ IN-PLACE SHELTERS DEVELOPED BY Be prepared to point out the TAKING AN EXISTING PART OF THE MINE locations of safe havens on ✓ LOCATIONS MARKED ON MAP; KNOWN BY the mine map (if applicable). RESPONSIBLE PERSON ✓ REQUIRED SPECIFICATIONS GIVEN LATER Be prepared to point out the locations of refuge chambers SURVIVAL: on the mine map (if **REFUGE CHAMBERS** applicable). ✓ MANUFACTURED RIGID OR INFLATABLE VESSELS ✓ LOCATIONS MARKED ON MAP; KNOWN BY RESPONSIBLE PERSON ✓ REQUIRED SPECIFICATIONS GIVEN LATER

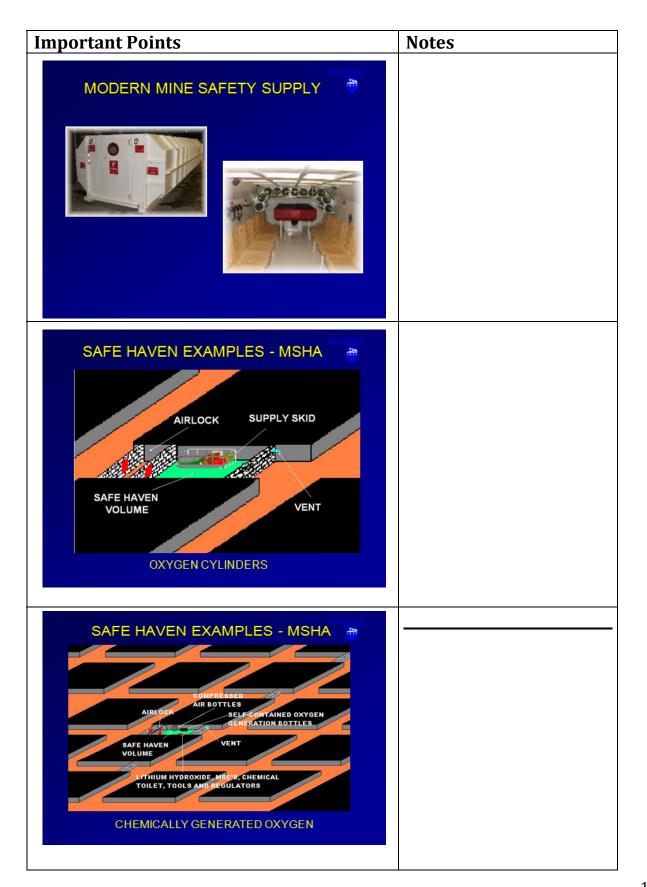
Important Points	Notes
Survival: Barricade	Be prepared to discuss how your supplies are stored and where
 ✓ DEFINITION ✓ LOCATIONS OF BARRICADE MATERIALS ✓ UNDERSTANDING BARRICADING 	
SURVIVAL: OTHER SAFE AREAS KNOWLEDGE OF MINE LAYOUT AND VENTILATION PATTERNS COMMUNICATIONS SURVIVED? CONSULT RESPONSIBLE PERSON COMMUNICATION NOT POSSIBLE; WHERE WOULD YOU BE FOUND?	Be prepared to locate excapeways on the mine map
REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: QUANTITY OF BREATHABLE AIR OPTIONS 1. ESTABLISHED BOREHOLE (WITHIN 2000 FT) 2. 48-HOUR SUPPLY OF BREATHABLE AIR DETAILS IN NEXT SLIDE	

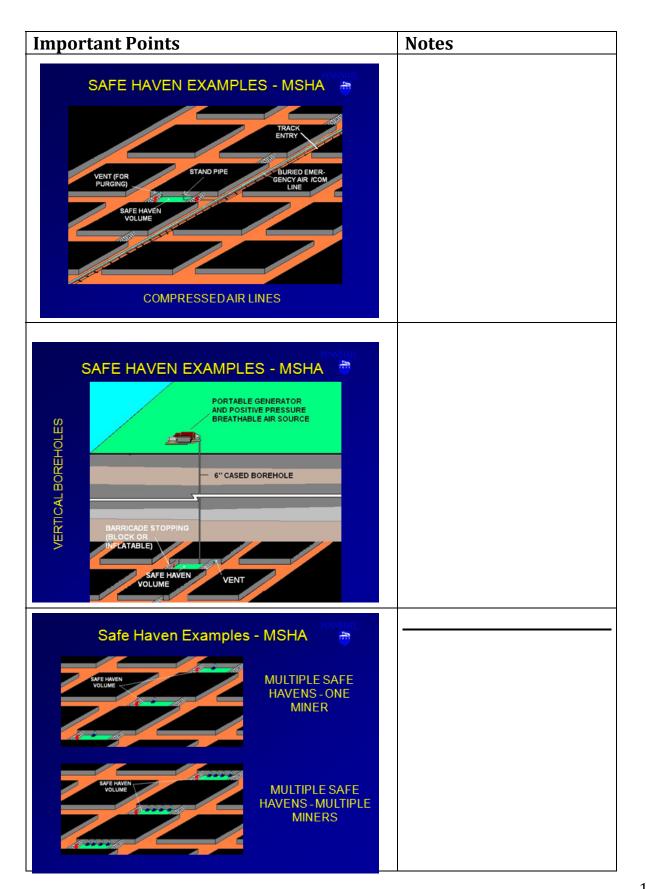
Important Points Notes REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: **QUANTITY OF BREATHABLE AIR OPTIONS** 2. 48-HOUR SUPPLY OF BREATHABLE AIR (continued) CONTINGENCYARRANGEMENTS ("GUIDELINE") a) A PRE-ARRANGED, PRE-SURVEYEDAREA FOR BARRICADING b) THE DRILL RIG CAPACITY FOR PRE-**SURVEYED LOCATION** REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS QUANTITY OF BREATHABLE AIR **OPTIONS** 3. 96-HOUR SUPPLY OF BREATHABLE AIR (WITHIN 2000 FT) 4. OTHER METHODS Be prepared to ID the location of additional **BREATHABLE AIR REQUIREMENTS** breathable air. ✓ LOCATIONS OF BREATHABLEAIR ✓ VARIOUS METHODS OF SUPPLY NAME A FEW NOTE: MSHA HAZARD AWARENESS TRAINING FOR COMPRESSED AIR AND COMPRESSED OXYGEN NOTE: ALL MINERS MUST BE TRAINED ON BREATHABLE AIR **PROVISIONS**

Important Points Notes Be prepared to discuss how SAFE HAVENS you would enter the safe haven and the location of ✓ SITE-SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF SAFE HAVENS oxygen cylinders. 1. HOW CONSTRUCTED? WHY THIS WAY? Be prepared to ID the oxygen 2. HOW CHEMICALLY GENERATED OXYGEN generation system, and how WORKS? to tell if it is functional. 3. LOCATION OF COMPRESSED AIR LINES? **BOREHOLES?** Be prepared to discuss how to tell if the compressed air system is functional. Be prepared to discuss the borehole system functions. SAFE HAVEN ASSUMPTIONS ✓ AIR QUALITY REQUIREMENTS (CH₄; CO₂; O₂; CO) ✓ ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS (TEMPERATURE; MONITORING) SUPPLIED AIR SPECIFICATIONS ✓ LITHIUM HYDROXIDE CURTAINS ✓ "K" SIZE COMPRESSEDAIR CYLINDERS ✓ SAFE HAVEN PURGING "EFFICIENCY" ✓ AIR SOURCEAND QUALITY PROVIDED FOR COMPRESSORS AND BLOWING FANS

Important Points Notes **EMERGENCY SUPPLIES** ✓ CHEMICALTOILET ✓ BRATTICE CLOTH ✓ TOOLS/REPAIR MATERIALS ✓ READY TO EAT MEALS ✓ VALVE REGULATORS REFUGE CHAMBERS APPROVED/PENDING APPROVAL ✓ CHEMBIO SHELTER, INC. ✓ DRAEGER SAFETY, INC. ✓ KENNEDY METAL PRODUCTS, INC. ✓ STRATA PRODUCTS (USA), INC. (PENDINGMSHA ELECTRICALAPPROVAL) ✓ MODERN MINE SAFETY SUPPLY CHEMBIO SHELTER, INC. LIFE SHELTER







Important Points Notes NIOSH TESTING PROGRAM ✓ GOAL OF NIOSH TESTING: PROVIDE EVALUATION INFORMATION TO MINERS, MANUFACTURERS, AND **MSHA** RISK OF SEEKING REFUGE OVER ESCAPE **EMPHASIS** ✓ LAST RESORT! ✓ WEIGHING THE RISKS ✓ IMPORTANCE OF GOOD, EARLY COMMUNICATION JUDGMENT AND RISKS ✓ DECISION: JUDGMENT ✓ BESTAPPROACH TO THE DECISION ✓ RISKAND THE MINER ACT – NO GUARANTEE

Important Points Notes SAFE WORK = REDUCED RISK ✓ PREVENTION OF MAJOR HAZARDS => FAITHFUL EXECUTION OF JOBS ✓ IF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS DO NOT OCCUR, THEN YOU WON'T BE THREATENED STRESS IN MINING EMERGENCIES ✓ STRESS o MENTALAND PHYSICAL EFFECTS o THINK OPTIMISTICALLY Æ Can you identify any additional training needs in IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING decision-making? ✓ NEED IMPROVED SKILLS, THROUGH TRAINING, ON: ESCAPING IN SMOKE SUPERVISORS' DECISION-MAKING RESPONSIBLE PERSON DECISION-MAKING EFFECTIVE TEAMWORK AND TEAM-BUILDING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Important Points	Notes
SUMMARY	
✓ YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE AVAILABLE OPTIONS DURING A MINE EMERGENCY/DISASTER IS THE KEY TO SURVIVAL.	
✓ YOU MUST ASSESS THE RISK CREATED BY THE EMERGENCY/DISASTER.	
✓ IF YOU DECIDE THAT THE RISK OF ESCAPE OR EVACUATION IS TOO GREAT, YOU NEED TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN BREATHABLE AIR SAFE HAVENS/REFUGE CHAMBERS AND BARRICADING.	
SUMMARY	
✓ YOU MUST RELY ON YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE MINE LAYOUT AND VENTILATION PATTERNS, COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE RESPONSIBLE PERSON AND YOUR BEST JUDGMENT.	
✓ EMERGENCY SCENARIOS WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THEM AND IN THE END YOU MUST MAKE THE DECISION WITH YOUR FELLOW MINERS.	
✓ THE KEY TO NOT HAVING TO MAKE THIS TYPE OF A DECISION IS PREVENTION.	

APPENDIX A

MODULE 6

BREATHABLE AIR SAFE HAVENS/REFUGE CHAMBERS PRE-TEST

This pre-test consists of three multiple-choice and two True or False questions. Each multiple-choice question is followed by four choices. Circle the letter that indicates the best choice.

1.	Which of the	following would not be especially helpful in selecting a refuge option?
	a.	Access to drinking water

- b. Knowledge of blocked escape routes
- c. Information about the emergency situation
- d. Knowledge of the location of breathable air safe havens
- 2. A good barricade would be a wall constructed of concrete blocks or brattice cloth/plastic and fastened to the ribs, roof, and floor to create a_____which isolates miners from contaminated air.
 - a. safe haven
 - b. breathable atmosphere
 - c. warm area
 - d. ventilated area
- 3. What mine design feature that would not be especially helpful for escape, evacuation and survival?
 - a. The number of the track entries
 - b. State of the art tracking system
 - c. Safe haven/rescue chambers
 - d. Maintaining the escape way
- 4. Barricading is the last option of a last resort.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 5. The location of breathable air safe havens must be shown on an escape map.
 - a. True
 - b. False

MODULE 6

BREATHABLE AIR SAFE HAVENS/REFUGE CHAMBERS **POST-TEST**

This post-test consists of six multiple-choice and four True or False questions. Each multiple-choice question is followed by four choices. Circle the letter that indicates the best choice

the best choice.			
1.	Which of the following would not be especially helpful in selecting a refuge option?		
	a.	Access to drinking water	
	b.	Knowledge of blocked escape routes	
	C.	Information about the emergency situation	
	d.	Knowledge of the location of breathable air safe havens	
2.	_	ricade would be a wall constructed of concrete blocks or brattice	
	, .	ic and fastened to the ribs, roof, and floor to create awhich	
		ners from contaminated air. safe haven	
	a. b.		
	D. C.	breathable atmosphere warm area	
	d.	ventilated area	
	u.	ventuateu ai ea	
3.		design feature that would not be especially helpful for escape,	
	evacuation	and survival?	
	a.	The number of the track entries	
	b.	State of the art tracking system	
	C.	Safe haven/rescue chambers	
	d.	Maintaining the escape way	
4.	A key factor	r in seeking refuge over escape is good, early communication.	
	a.	True	
	b.	False	
5.	Barricading	g is the last option of a last resort.	
٥.	a.	True	
	b.	False	

6. The location of breathable air safe havens must be shown on an escape map.

a.

b.

True FalsE

7.	Each miner sl	hould be provided a 96-hour supply of breathable air located within
	feet of	the working section.
	a.	500
	b.	1000

- c. 1500d. 2000
- 8. Emergency supplies **do not** include
 - a. a chemical toilet.
 - b. brattice cloth.
 - c. spare transportation.
 - a. ready to eat meals.
- 9. Decision making skills can be improved through training in smoke, supervisory training and responsible person training.
 - a. True
 - b. False
- 10. The key to not having to deal with an emergency is prevention, and the best way to achieve it is
 - a. any type of training.
 - b. faithfully executing all aspects of your job.
 - c. having the best equipment.
 - d. having a safety program.

APPENDIX B

MARK C. RADOMSKY

E-mail: mcr4@psu.edu Address: 0212 RES BL WEST

UNIVERSITY PARK

Telephone Number: +1 814 865 6335

JOSEPH P FLICK

E-mail: jpf1@psu.edu

Address: 0213 RES BL WEST

UNIVERSITY PARK

Telephone Number: +1 814 865 7472

JOSEPH NICHOLAS DESALVO

E-mail: jnd10@psu.edu Address: 0213 RES BL WEST

UNIVERSITY PARK

Telephone Number: +1 814 865 7472

ROBERT LARRY GRAYSON

E-mail: rlg19@psu.edu

Address: 0103A HOSLER BUILDING

UNIVERSITY PARK

Telephone Number: +1 814 863 1644

RAJA V. RAMANI

E-mail: rvr@psu.edu

Address: 0209 RES BL WEST

UNIVERSITY PARK

Telephone Number: +1 814 863 1617