



QUARTERLY BULLETIN

KY Division of Mine Safety

Third Quarter 2017

Jeff Reed, Editor

Opening Thoughts: *Mine safety specialists are in the mines more than ever and the numbers prove it.*

In the third quarter of 2017, Kentucky mine safety specialists in the Division of Mine Safety (DMS) performed 675 job observations. Putting this in comparison; 9% of Kentucky's miners were observed on the job in the first two quarters (i.e. six months) of the year, while during the third quarter alone (i.e. three months), 10% of Kentucky's miners were observed performing their duties.

So more miners were observed in the past three months than in all of the first six month period, which means more on the job discussion about safe procedures than ever before. At the current rate, DMS will more than triple the number of miners observed/contacted in the next year, as compared to the past one.

More than ever, mine safety specialists are focused on removing risk from the workplace while performing all their required functions such as inspections, training, education, instructing and providing mine rescue coverage to all Kentucky mines. Mine safety specialists are able to observe for risk on the job and discuss the risk with the miner and arrive at a safe solution in performing the task which makes the workplace safer for everyone.

While most of the time Kentucky miners are performing their job duties in a safe manner, the observations revealed risk in approximately 18% of the behaviors observed. Thirty-nine near miss situations (of which most could have been fatalities) were reported during the observations. Fortunately, the near misses resulted in minor or no injury at all in many cases. Near miss reports allow us to gather information that could have resulted in tragedy but instead, can be used to prevent future injuries or fatalities by sharing the information.

As a result of these reports, DMS has distributed one Emergency Action Bulletin (EAB) and three Safety Alerts that provide information to miners and companies that can be used in safety meetings or "tool box" talks, so that we can learn from someone who was almost seriously injured or killed.

We would like to call your attention to a few issues of concern that have been discovered through inspections, observations and reports. Kentucky has seen a rise in some potentially serious incidents. In these cases, there is little (if any) room for mistakes.

Electrical work shall ONLY be performed by or under the direct supervision of certified electricians. Wear proper PPE when performing electrical work, handling cables etc. and treat all circuits as live until proven otherwise. ALWAYS lock and tag as required by law.

When working around **highwalls**, thorough and frequent examinations should be done and appropriate action taken to make the area safe. Maintain a safe distance from the toe of the **highwall**. Be aware of changing conditions, hazards, weather etc. and utilize adequate lighting in non-daytime hours. We have experienced yet another **RED ZONE** injury in Kentucky during this period that resulted in serious injury to the individual operating a continuous miner. Fortunately it was not a fatal injury but easily could have been. Mine operators must assure that employees are following the **RED ZONE** rules and employees have the responsibility to stay out of the **RED ZONE**. There are no excuses for operating in the **RED ZONE**.

Also, we experienced more than one instance of **smoking** materials in underground mines.

We can no longer tolerate these type of violations that threaten the lives of a miner and/or their coworkers. Therefore, we are asking all Kentuckians, miners and operators alike, to join with us to eradicate these instances once and for all. **Make safety a value**. One that takes all Kentucky miners home to their loved ones every day.

WORKING HANDS— HELPING HANDS—COMFORTING HANDS

A major contributing factor for hand injuries is the failure to think before doing a task and not using proper protective gloves for the jobs we are performing.

A young man recently came to the Pikeville DMS Branch Office to get his annual retraining. While speaking with him, I noticed that his hand was missing a couple of fingers. He went on to tell me that he left the coal industry after his injury.

This unfortunate incident happened as he was unloading supplies from a diesel Lo-Trac Forklift that was located at the end of the underground track. As he hurried to free up the track travel way as quickly as possible, he jumped into the forklift and while tramping the machine he inadvertently ran over a crib block laying in the roadway. One of his hands was on top of the metal canopy, over the operator's compartment, and was instantly mashed as it came into contact with the roof of the mine and was dragged along.

I asked this young man how he was doing since his debilitating injury and he stated "pretty good." He said that he had always loved to play the guitar and that he was now having to learn to play with a different technique. And though I admired his positive attitude and his ability to adjust, I couldn't help thinking how much better it would have been for him and his family had he not suffered this life-altering injury.

Please think about the job that needs to be done before you begin and do it the right way by implementing all safety precautions and the equipment required for the task. If we would simply take 10 seconds to consider the dangers *before* placing our hands in locations that could amputate, burn, cut, mash and/or disfigure this could prevent a lifetime of thinking, "If only I had done it the right way...the safe way." Think of your family and your future. Please work safe – we are all counting on you.

And if after reading the above account you still need a reason to work safely and to protect your hands then simply look down at your fingers and count ten very good ones.

Article written by Randy Smith, Branch Manager for the DMS Pikeville Branch Office

MINE SAFETY REVIEW COMMISSION

Year-To-Date Cases/Actions Taken

From January to September 2017 the Mine Safety Review Commission

has heard 151 cases and carried out the sanction of:

- Twenty-Three (23) three (3) year ineligibilities
- Nineteen (19) three (3) year revocations
- One (1) five (5) year revocation
- Three (3) permanent revocation
- Eighteen (18) reinstatements
- Twenty-Three (23) reciprocity reinstatements
- Thirteen (13) placed on probation with a settlement agreement
- Two (2) traditional Red Zone Violation cases, mine foreman certifications placed on probation
- One (1) placed on probation with a settlement agreement
- One (1) traditional Notification case, fine and closure order placed on the mine site
- One (1) traditional smoking violation case, suspension of miner certifications

Training and Testing

For the first three quarters of 2017 the Division of Mine Safety has tested 1,532 miners and trained an additional 6,616 others.

Specific training breakdown counts are as follows:

- Electrical Retraining 280
- Excavator Safety Training 63
- Gas Detection 241
- MET Initial & Retraining 504
- Mine Rescue Retraining 883
- Surface Initial 522
- Surface Retraining 975
- Surface Foreman Initial & Retraining 824
- Underground Initial 306
- Underground Retraining 1,070
- Underground Foreman Initial & Retraining 1,216

2017 KY Mine Licenses Issued

District	Mine Type	July	Aug.	Sept.	Issued	Issued
					Qtr.	YTD
	Surface	2	2	5	9	32
Barbourville	Underground	1	0	0	1	9
	TOTAL	3	2	4	10	41
	Surface	1	1	0	2	11
Harlan	Underground	0	0	3	3	18
	TOTAL	1	1	3	5	29
	Surface	0	1	0	1	15
Hazard	Underground	0	0	0	0	10
	TOTAL	0	1	0	1	25
	Surface	0	0	0	0	8
Madisonville	Underground	0	0	0	0	7
	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	15
	Surface	1	0	1	2	16
Martin	Underground	0	0	0	0	6
	TOTAL	1	0	1	2	22
	Surface	1	1	0	2	35
Pikeville	Underground	2	1	0	3	27
	TOTAL	3	2	0	5	62
MONTHLY	Surface	5	5	6	16	117
TOTAL	Underground	3	1	3	7	77
COMBINED	S/UG	8	6	9	23	194*

**141 of the 194 licensed mines were actively producing coal as of 9-30-2017*

RISK BY OCCUPATION For The 3rd Quarter

OCCUPATION	NUMBER
Roof Bolter	35
Electrician/Mechanic	10
Underground Foreman	5
Scoop Operator	4
Shuttle Car Operator	4
Excavator Operator	2
Mobile Crane Operator	2
Continuous Mine Operator	2

ELECTRICAL RETRAINING

NOTIFICATION

THIS IS A REMINDER TO ALL CERTIFIED ELECTRICIANS THAT DECEMBER 31st IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING, WHICH IS THE DEADLINE TO MEET YOUR ANNUAL RETRAINING REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN YOUR CERTIFICATION FOR 2018. THE DIVISION OF MINE SAFETY IS CURRENTLY OFFERING THESE CLASSES AT OUR BRANCH OFFICES SO PLEASE CHECK WITH THE OFFICE NEAREST YOU TO OBTAIN CLASS DATES AND TIMES.

Barbourville/Harlan Branch - 606-573-1260

Hazard Branch - 606-435-6079

Madisonville Branch - 270-824-7523

Martin/Pikeville - 606-433-7742

**DMS 24-Hour Hotline
1-877-646-3911**

RISK BY BEHAVIOR ITEM For The 3rd Quarter

ITEM	NUMBER
Gas Test	10
Communication/Warning	7
Standard PPE	6
Equipment Operations	6
Line of Fire	5
Ascending/Descending	3
Pinch Points	3
Roof & Rib Inspection	3
Job Specific PPE	3
Housekeeping/Storage	3
Eyes on Path	2
Walk/Work Area	2
Lifting/Lowering/Twisting	2
Eyes on Task/Hands	2
Surface/Highwall	2

MINE RESCUE CONTEST RESULTS

THIRD QUARTER

HARLAN COUNTY SAFETY DAYS MINE RESCUE CONTEST

July 25-27, 2017

Preshift Competition

1st David Mackey - KY Coal Academy **2nd** Tony Lloyd - KY Coal Academy **3rd** Rick Thomas - Alden Resources LLC

BG4 Bench Competition

1st Travis Truett - Alden Resources LLC **2nd** Tony Lloyd - KY Coal Academy **3rd** Tim Turner - Revelation Energy LLC

First Aid Competition

1st Alden Resources LLC - Corbin, KY **2nd** Arch Coal, Inc. / Leer Mine - Grafton, WV

Combination Competition

1st Alden Resources LLC - Corbin, KY **2nd** Arch Coal Inc. / Leer Mine - Grafton, WV

Overall Mine Rescue Competition

1st Alden Resources LLC - Corbin, KY **2nd** Contura Energy - Norton, VA **3rd** Peabody Energy Midwest - Equality, IL

KENTUCKY MINING INSTITUTE MINE RESCUE CONTEST

August 21-24, 2017

Drager BG4 Bench Competition

1st Tony Lloyd - KY Coal Academy **2nd** Travis Truett - Alden Resources LLC **3rd** Steve Cannon - State of Alabama

Preshift Competition

1st Jeff Clark - KY Coal Academy **2nd** Cory Baker - Sunrise Coal Co. **3rd** David Mackey - KY Coal Academy

Overall Mine Rescue Competition

1st Alden Resources LLC - Corbin, KY **2nd** Arch Coal / Viper Red - Williamsville, IL **3rd** Sunrise Coal Co. - Oaktown, IN

First Aid and Mine Rescue Combination Competition

1st Alden Resources LLC **2nd** Leer Mine / Blue Team **3rd** Mingo Logan Coal Co./ Mountain Laurel Gold

NATIONAL MINE RESCUE CONTEST

September 11-14, 2017

Preshift Competition

1st Chad Greenlee - Warrior Coal **2nd** Chris Lewis - Cumberland Contura LLC **3rd** Mike Fulmer - Mettiki Coal LLC

Biopak 240R Bench Competition

1st Barry Rowe - Arch Coal / Viper Red **2nd** Adam Zamora - Westmoreland Coal Co. **3rd** Taber Tichener - KY Coal Academy

Drager BG4 Bench Competition

1st John Helmick - CNXC Resources / Harvey Mine **2nd** Chad Day - Peabody Energy / Twenty Mile No. 2
3rd Rob Hutchinson, Jr. - Cumberland Contura LLC

“Contest Results” continued on page 5

First Aid and Mine Rescue Combination Competition

1st Alden Resources LLC **2nd** Canyon Fuel LLC / Suffco Mine **3rd** Alpha Natural Resources - Southern WV

Overall Mine Rescue Competition

1st Metinvest United Coal Co. West - Grundy, VA **2nd** CNXC Resources / Harvey Mine - Sycamor, PA

3rd ACI Tygart Valley / Leer Mine - Grafton, WV

MINE RESCUE CHARACTER

Sacrifice

Leadership

Responsibility

Discipline

Dedication

Commitment

Mental Emotional Control

**MINE RESCUE:
A SPECIAL BREED**

People don't care

how much you know

until they know

how much you care!

Sprains and Strains in the Workplace

Injury reporting data regarding occupational injuries indicates sprains and strains are the leading cause of injury in the workplace. In fact, they more than double the next injury category.

These type of injuries occur when workers are exposed to **RISK**. They can happen suddenly or over time. The most common causes are **unsafe work conditions/poor work practices, repetitive motion, improper lifting technique and environmental conditions**.

Sprains and strains are *preventable*. It is a simple matter of identifying the **RISK** and applying preventative measures such as the following:

1. Identify and correct **RISKY** behaviors and conditions
 - a. Remove defective equipment from service
 - b. Replace damaged or unsuitable tools
 - c. Initiate a job observation process to identify **RISK**
 - d. Train workers in safe work procedures
2. To the extent possible, avoid repetitive motions
 - a. Rotate job assignments
 - b. Change machinery and/or work position
3. Train workers in proper lifting techniques
 - a. Lift using your legs
 - b. Hold loads close to torso
 - c. Turn using your feet
 - d. Ask for help when lifting heavy loads
4. Identify and avoid slippery work surfaces and remove trip hazards
 - a. Clean up spills
 - b. Maintain good housekeeping
 - c. Adequately illuminate work areas

Together through observation, we can identify **RISK BEHAVIORS** and **CONDITIONS** that cause these injuries, and work toward removing them from the workplace.

Article written by Tim Fugate, Chief Accident Investigator for DMS

Hazard Branch Office Hosts Basic Life Support and Advanced First Aid Training

The Kentucky Division of Forestry (DOF) now has the CPR and First Aid skills to assist personnel in the field thanks to the Division of Mine Safety (DMS), which recently conducted a BLS/Advanced First Aid Class for personnel with the forestry division.

Department for Natural Resources Commissioner Allen Luttrell initiated the higher level training after seeing up close the response to last year's wildfires in southeast Kentucky during which multiple agencies within the Energy and Environment Cabinet were deployed to assist the DOF with logistics.

Ten forestry personnel learned skills on Sept. 26-28 at the Division of Mine Safety (DMS) office in Hazard, KY such as airway management, caring for soft tissue injuries and shock, caring for muscle and bone injuries and recognizing symptoms of heart attacks and strokes. During the instruction, the class split into two teams to practice their first aid skills.

"We were able to see first-hand the many risks involved in firefighting, particularly in the remote areas of rough terrain," said DMS instructor Tim Burns. "Just as in the coal industry, we quickly realized the importance of having trained personnel working with the crews in these isolated areas."

Tim Brown, branch manager for field operations for the DOF, said the training, which brought foresters together from different parts of the state, would be repeated in the future.

The Division of Mine Safety would like to thank the Division of Forestry for having the confidence in it to conduct this BLS/Advanced First Aid Class.

Article written by Tim Burns, Mine Safety Specialist I in the DMS Hazard Branch Office

Left to Right: DMS Instructors: Tim Burns and Marshall Sizemore; KDF: Christopher Adams, Adam McGuire, Candie Nantz, Beth Williams, Taylor York, John Dubois, Robbie Morgan, Curtis Hardin, Tony Smith,

Kneeling in front is Matthew Harvey.

