



QUARTERLY BULLETIN

KY Division of Mine Safety

Fourth Quarter 2017

Jeff Reed, Editor

Opening Thoughts:

“Ring out the Old Year and Ring in the New”

As we begin 2018, let's reflect on some positive accomplishments and start the year with the attitude that **“NOBODY GETS HURT TODAY.”** Injuries should **NOT** be a part of doing business. We have accomplished many positive things since the last fatal accident in Kentucky, including nine consecutive months without a fatality. Let's build on that and continue the streak “one day at a time.”

We have learned much from the unfortunate deaths of two of our fellow Kentucky miners in each of the past six years. But we need to move forward by being aggressively proactive with safety practices. Kentucky Division of Mine Safety (DMS) is accomplishing this through the behavior-based analyst process. Using this process, we can remove risk from the workplace one observation at a time. The more people (mine safety specialists, miners, foremen, managers etc.) we have observing miners for on-the-job risk, the safer miners will be. Please join us in this important endeavor of “risk removal.” Miners' lives depend on it!

In the second half of 2017, DMS performed 1,884 on-the-job observations and as one might expect, since Kentucky's miners are among the best in the world, approximately 85% of the time there was no risk observed. The remaining 15 percent of the time there was risk exposure such as personal protective equipment, pinch points and line of fire (to mention a few). These risks comes from a combination of mine conditions, equipment and most often, behavior. Over the past decades, statistics show, that approximately 80 percent of injuries and fatalities are the result of miner behavior. Specialists, as part of their observations, will discuss the cause of the risk, the solution, and ask for a commitment to do the job the safe way. By continuing this process, we are able to gather data and use the information to alert the mining industry in the most common causes of injuries and provide material to use in safety talks or other means (i.e. safety alerts and bulletins) to let Kentucky's miners know what risks are causing injuries.

So as we move forward in 2018, let's take the attitude that **“NOBODY GETS HURT TODAY.”** If we do this each and every day, we can continue that string of fatality free months indefinitely.

“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

Albert Einstein

Ricky Johnson Retirement

Please join with the KY Division of Mine Safety in wishing Ricky Johnson the very best in his retirement which became effective on January 1, 2018. Ricky began his career with the Division in December 1997 and served as the Manager of the Barbourville Branch since August 2004. He also held the post of Acting Director of DMS for several months.

Ricky has been involved in Mine Rescue activity for many years, having served on teams responding to many mine emergencies and also, since September 2015, heading up Mine Rescue efforts for DMS. He is not only a good mine rescue man, but frankly, just a good man!

Ricky Johnson will be missed by all DMS employees, the miners in Kentucky, Mine Rescue Teams and also Companies that have gotten to know him and his passion for Safety over the years.

GOOD LUCK RICKY!



MINE SAFETY REVIEW COMMISSION

Year-To-Date Cases/Actions Taken

From January to December 2017 the Mine Safety Review Commission

has heard 175 cases and carried out the sanction of:

- Thirty (30) three (3) year ineligibilities
- Twenty-Three (23) three (3) year revocations
- One (1) five (5) year revocation
- Three (3) permanent revocations
- Twenty-Four (24) reinstatements
- Twenty-Six (26) reciprocity reinstatements
- Fourteen (14) 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
- Three (3) **traditional smoking violation** cases,
suspension and probation of miner certifications

Training and Testing

In 2017 the Division of Mine Safety tested 1,921 miners and trained an additional 8,995 others.

Specific training breakdown counts are as follows:

- CPR Instructor 1
- Electrical Retraining 1,030
- Excavator Safety Training 67
- Gas Detection 293
- Hoist Engineer Initial 4
- MET Initial & Retraining 656
- Mine Rescue Retraining 963
- Surface Initial 629
- Surface Retraining 1,204
- Surface Foreman Initial & Retraining 959
- Underground Initial 386
- Underground Retraining 1,362
- Underground Foreman Initial & Retraining 1,441

2017 KY Mine Licenses Issued

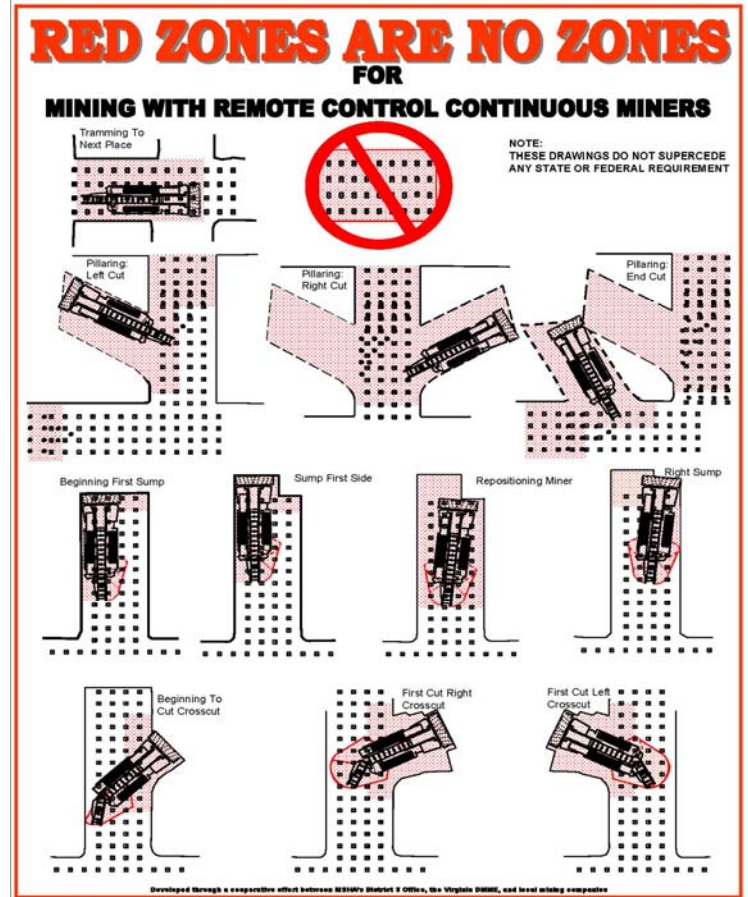
District	Mine Type	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Issued Qtr.	Issued YTD
	Surface	0	2	0	2	34
Barbourville	Underground	0	1	0	1	10
	TOTAL	0	3	0	3	44
	Surface	0	0	0	0	11
Harlan	Underground	0	0	0	0	18
	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	29
	Surface	0	0	0	0	15
Hazard	Underground	0	0	0	0	10
	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	25
	Surface	0	0	1	1	9
Madisonville	Underground	0	0	0	0	7
	TOTAL	0	0	1	1	16
	Surface	0	1	0	1	17
Martin	Underground	0	1	0	1	7
	TOTAL	0	2	0	2	24
	Surface	1	0	0	1	36
Pikeville	Underground	0	0	0	0	27
	TOTAL	1	0	0	1	62
MONTHLY	Surface	1	3	1	5	122
TOTAL	Underground	0	2	0	2	79
COMBINED	S/UG	1	5	1	7	201*

*133 of the 201 licensed mines were actively producing coal as of 12-31-2017

Important Update

The 24 hour 1-800 number
 "Hotline for Mine Safety Concerns"
is no longer in service.

Please use the number listed below
 for all after hour mine emergencies.
1-877-646-3911



RISK BY OCCUPATION For The 4th Quarter

OCCUPATION	NUMBER
Roof Bolter Operator	29
Electrician/Mechanic	24
Bulldozer Operator	17
Truck Operator	10
Miner Operator	8
Personnel Carrier Operator	8
Scoop Operator	7
Shuttle Car Operator	6
Front End Loader Operator	6

RISK BY BEHAVIOR ITEM For The 4th Quarter

ITEM	NUMBER
Standard PPE	79
Job Specific PPE	28
Mining Equipment Condition/Use	24
Communication/Warning	21
Ascending/Descending	9
Pinch Points	8
Lifting/Lowering/Twisting	7

MINE RESCUE TRAINING

Vision and Values

I AM ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIBLE, AND ANSWER TO THOSE WHO REPORT TO ME

Everyone will be considered as an individual, treated with dignity and respect, and receive recognition according to their merit. Our co-workers are our greatest asset and must feel free to make suggestions or air complaints without fear of retaliation or of being ignored.

To establish a successful safety culture, we must all embrace the principle of *ownership*. Success can only be achieved when everyone participates, and management makes a commitment to serve.

Forget this and we fail! Embrace it and we see change. We will identify; we will assess; we will plan; we will prepare; and we will perform!

**THERE IS NO JOB SO IMPORTANT, NO SERVICE SO NEEDED,
THAT WE CANNOT TAKE THE TIME TO
DO THE JOB SAFELY**

In Kentucky, we have approximately twenty (20) mine rescue teams, including the six (6) teams from the Kentucky Division of Mine Safety (DMS). While that may sound like quite a few teams, that number is dangerously low when you consider the number of hours it takes to work and control a mine disaster. What has caused this shortfall? Rising costs and a reduced demand have caused coal companies to tighten their fiscal belts to stay in business. Many teams, consequently, reduced training by participating in two (2) mine rescue contests a year, the minimum required by regulation. We must remember what we ask of these men and women that serve on our mine rescue teams. Are they as prepared to go into a burning mine to search for and rescue their fellow coal miners, or to fight mine fires to help save not only the coal reserves but the coal mine itself - and the jobs of their fellow miners?

I have noticed, over the last couple of years, that there has been a drop in morale of some of these highly motivated individuals. These team members realize that more competitions and training would prepare them better to perform their duties. I can only hope the industry realizes how important it is to keep these unique individuals trained.

One of our many goals at DMS is making sure that every coal miner at the end of every day goes home to their family. Please keep our coal miners and rescue team members in your prayers. I know that they would all greatly appreciate it.

Article submitted by Kenny Mitchell, Branch Manager for the DMS Madisonville Office



Congratulations to the Madisonville Mine Rescue Team for their great performance and excellent example of teamwork at this years Kentucky State Mine Rescue Contest.

Team members include: (left to right) James Tabor, Garry Mitchell, Charles Maddox, Brad Thomas, Lee Vincent, Rodney James, John Small, *Acting DNR Commissioner* (award presenter), Kenny Mitchell, *Madisonville Branch Manager*, Ben James, Richard Walker and William Blalock

