

# COAL MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE



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# **COAL MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE**

This Power Point was prepared by the office of Coal Mine Safety and Health. It was presented in conjunction with a discussion of the Mine Rescue Team Rule at informational meetings held in West Virginia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania in April and May of 2008. This is not a stand-alone document. Please consult the final rule and other guidance documents for compliance information.

# SUMMARY OF MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE

- Each operator of an underground coal mine shall establish at least two mine rescue teams which are available at all times when miners are underground or arrange for coverage
- Each mine rescue team shall consist of five members and one alternate
- Each mine rescue team at an anthracite mine which has no electrical equipment at the face or working section shall consist of at least three members per team and one alternate that may be shared between both teams

# SUMMARY OF MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE

- Team membership requires 1 year underground experience within the past 5 years. Contract team membership requires 3 years underground experience within the past 10 years

# SUMMARY OF MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE

- All teams must participate in two local mine rescue contests annually
- All teams must be within 1 hour ground travel time from the rescue station to the covered mine
- All teams must participate in mine rescue training at each covered mine

# SUMMARY OF MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE

- All team members shall receive 96 hours of refresher training annually
- State sponsored teams may substitute their regular job experience for 50 percent of the training requirements
- To be considered a State sponsored team members must be full time state employees whose primary job duties include inspecting mines or training mine rescue teams.

# SUMMARY OF MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE

- Mine site teams must participate in mine rescue training at each covered mine annually
- Composite teams must participate in mine rescue training at each covered mine semi-annually
- Contract teams must participate in mine rescue training at each covered large mine quarterly and each covered small mine semi-annually

# SUMMARY OF MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE

- State sponsored teams must participate in mine rescue training at each covered mine annually
- All team members must wear the apparatus while in smoke at least once each 12-month period
- All mines shall have two certified mine rescue teams



# SUMMARY OF MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE

- At large mines, more than 36 underground employees, one of the two certified teams shall be a mine site team or composite team
- Composite teams shall consist of at least two members from each covered large mine or one member from each covered small mine
- Small mines can have any combination of teams

# SUMMARY OF MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE

- Operators shall certify annually to the District Manager that each team meets the requirements
- A local mine rescue contest is: conducted in the United States; uses MSHA recognized rules; has a minimum of three teams competing; has one or more problems conducted on one or more days; includes judges who have completed annual training for mine rescue contest judges; and

# SUMMARY OF MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE

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can be a Mine Emergency Response

Development (MERD) exercise or a practical simulation exercise such as a fire or explosion drill where teams participate in simulated mine rescue team exercises and wear breathing apparatus

# SUMMARY OF MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE

- For each shift that miners work underground there shall be a responsible person designated by the mine operator to take charge during mine emergencies.
- The responsible person shall be trained annually in a course of instruction in mine emergency response as prescribed by MSHA's office of EP&D

# MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE

## 2008 COMPLIANCE DATES

- May 8, each operator must send the District Manager a statement describing the mines method of providing mine rescue coverage
- August 8, each mine must have a mine rescue station located no more than 1 hour ground travel time from the mine
- November 10, each operator of a large mine must have either an individual mine site team or a composite team as one of the mine's certified mine rescue teams

# **MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE**

## **2009 COMPLIANCE DATES**

- February 9, mine rescue team members must have completed 96 hours of annual training, including participation in two local mine rescue contests and training at each covered mine
- February 9, each mine operator shall make available two certified mine rescue teams whose members are familiar with the operations of the mine and have participated in two local mine rescue contests

# **MINE RESCUE TEAM RULE**

## **2009 COMPLIANCE DATES**

- February 9, each team providing coverage to a mine must be knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of the mine
- February 9, each mine operator must certify to the District Manager that each team designated to provide mine rescue coverage meets the requirements for certification

b) The following Table 49.11 summarizes the new requirements for mine rescue teams contained in section 4 of the MINER Act.

Table 49.11 - Summary of New MINER Act Requirements for Underground Coal Mine Operators and Mine Rescue Teams.

REQUIREMENT	TYPE OF MINE RESCUE TEAM			
	Mine-Site	Composite	Contract	State-sponsored *
Team members must participate at least annually in two local mine rescue contests.	YES	YES	YES	YES
Team members must participate in mine rescue training at each mine covered by the mine rescue team. A portion of the training must be conducted underground.	Annually	Semi-annually	Quarterly at Large Mines; Semi-annually at Small Mines	Annually
Team must be available at the mine within 1 hour ground travel time from the mine rescue station.	YES	YES	YES	YES
Team members must be knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of each covered mine.	YES	YES	YES	YES



Team must include at least two active employees from each covered large mine and at least one active employee from each covered small mine.		YES		
Team must be comprised of persons with a minimum of 3 years underground coal mine experience that shall have occurred within the 10-year period preceding their employment on the contract mine rescue team.			YES	
All mine operators must provide for two certified mine rescue teams. Large mine operators shall provide one team that is either an individual mine-site mine rescue team or a composite team.				

\* Note: Team members of State-sponsored teams who are full-time State employees whose primary job duties include (1) inspecting underground mines for compliance with State safety laws or (2) training mine rescue teams or (3) other similar duties that would enhance their mine rescue knowledge may substitute their regular job experience for 50 percent of the training requirements (annual training which includes mine rescue contests and mine-site training) for non-State employee mine rescue team members.

- § 49.13 Alternative mine rescue capability for small and remote mines.
- (a) If an underground mine is small and remote, an operator may provide for an alternative mine rescue capability consistent with statutory requirements. For the purposes of this subpart only, consideration for small and remote shall be given where the total underground employment of the operator's mine and any surrounding mine(s) within 1 hour ground travel time of the operator's mine is less than 36.

- § 49.18 Training for mine rescue teams.
- (a) Prior to serving on a mine rescue team each member shall complete, at a minimum, an initial 20-hour course of instruction as prescribed by MSHA's Office of Educational Policy and Development, in the use, care, and maintenance of the type of breathing apparatus which will be used by the mine rescue team.
- (b) Upon completion of the initial training, all team members shall receive at least 96 hours of refresher training annually, which shall include participation in local mine rescue contests and training at the covered mine. Training shall be given at least 8 hours every 2 months and shall consist of:

- (1) Sessions underground at least once each 6 months;
- (2) The wearing and use of the breathing apparatus by team members for a period of at least 2 hours while under oxygen every 2 months;
- (3) Where applicable, the use, care, capabilities, and limitations of auxiliary mine rescue equipment, or a different breathing apparatus;
- (4) Advanced mine rescue training and procedures, as prescribed by MSHA's Office of Educational Policy and Development;
- (5) Mine map training and ventilation procedures; and
- (6) The wearing of mine rescue apparatus while in smoke, simulated smoke, or an equivalent environment at least once during each 12-month period.

- (c) A mine rescue team member will be ineligible to serve on a team if more than 8 hours of training is missed during 1 year, unless additional training is received to make up for the time missed.
- (d) The training courses required by this section shall be conducted by instructors who have been employed in an underground mine and have had a minimum of 1 year experience as a mine rescue team member or a mine rescue instructor within the past 5 years, and who have received MSHA approval through:

- (1) Completion of an MSHA or State approved instructor's training course and the program of instruction in the subject matter to be taught.
- (2) Designation by the District Manager as approved instructors to teach specific courses, based on their qualifications and teaching experience outlined above. Previously approved instructors need not be re-designated to teach the approved courses as long as they have taught those courses within the 24 months prior to the effective date of this part.

- § 49.20 Requirements for all coal mines.
- (a) The operator of each underground coal mine shall make available two certified mine rescue teams whose members—
  - (1) Are familiar with the operations of the mine, and
  - (2) Participate at least annually in two local mine rescue contests.
- (b) Team members shall meet the following:

- (1) Mine-site team. Members who work at the mine and participate in mine rescue training at the mine at least annually.
- (2) Composite team. A mine rescue team that covers multiple mines and whose members—
  - (i) Include at least two members from each covered large mine and at least one member from each covered small mine,
  - (ii) Are knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of each covered underground coal mine, and
  - (iii) Participate in mine rescue training at each covered mine at least semi-annually.



- (3) Contract team. A mine rescue team that is provided by an arrangement with another coal mine or with a third party and whose members—
  - (i) Are knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of each covered underground coal mine, and
  - (ii) Participate in mine rescue training at each covered large mine at least quarterly and at each covered small mine at least semi-annually.

- (4) State-sponsored team. Members who are State employees and participate in mine rescue training at each covered mine at least annually.
- (c) For the purpose of mine rescue team membership, a member employed by an operator of multiple mines is considered to be an employee of each mine at which the member regularly works.
- (d) For the purpose of mine rescue team training at each covered mine, a portion of the training must be conducted underground.

- § 49.30 Requirements for small coal mines.
- At mines with 36 or fewer underground employees, mine rescue team members shall be knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of each covered mine.
- § 49.40 Requirements for large coal mines.
- At mines with more than 36 underground employees, one of the two certified mine rescue teams shall be an individual mine-site team or a composite team.

- § 49.50 Certification of coal mine rescue teams.
- (a) For each mine rescue team designated to provide mine rescue coverage at an underground coal mine, the mine operator shall send the District Manager an annual statement certifying that each team meets the requirements of this subpart as listed in the following Table 49.50-A and Table 49.50-B.
- (b) The operator shall notify the District Manager within 60 days of any change in team membership.

Table 49.50-A - Initial Criteria to Certify the Qualifications of Mine Rescue Teams.

Qualification	Criteria (30 CFR)
(1) Team is available at all times when miners are underground.	49.12(a) 49.12(g)
(2) Except where alternative compliance is permitted, team has five members and one alternate.	49.12(b)
(3) Members have experience working in an underground coal mine.	49.12(c)
(4) Team is available within 1 hour ground travel time from the mine rescue station to the mine.	49.12(f)
(5) Appropriate mine rescue equipment is provided, inspected, tested, and maintained.	49.16
(6) Members are physically fit.	49.17
(7) Members have completed initial training.	49.18(a)

Table 49.50-B - Annual Criteria to Maintain Mine Rescue Team Certification.

Qualification	Criteria (30 CFR)
(1) Members are properly trained annually.	49.18(b)
(2) Members are familiar with the operations of each covered mine.	49.20(a)(1)
(3) Members participate in at least two local mine rescue contests annually. Judges certify results.	49.20(a)(2)
(4) Members participate in mine rescue training at each covered mine.	49.20(b)(1) 49.20(b)(2)(iii) 49.20(b)(3)(ii) 49.20(b)(4)
(5) Members are knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of each covered mine.	49.20(b)(2)(ii) 49.20(b)(3)(i) 49.30

- § 49.60 Requirements for a local mine rescue contest.
- (a) A local mine rescue contest is one that—
- (1) Is conducted in the United States;
- (2) Uses MSHA-recognized rules;
- (3) Has a minimum of three mine rescue teams competing;
- (4) Has one or more problems conducted on one or more days with a determined winner;
- (5) Includes team members who—
- (i) Have the necessary equipment to participate in a simulated mine rescue team exercise,
- (ii) Participate in a simulated mine rescue team exercise while being timed and observed by trained judges who evaluate the performance of each team and provide written feedback, and
- (iii) Wear oxygen breathing apparatus while participating in a simulated mine rescue team exercise; and

- (6) Includes contest judges who have completed annual training for mine rescue contest judges.
- (b) A local mine rescue contest is training that provides an objective evaluation of demonstrated mine rescue team skills and can be a Mine Emergency Response Development (MERD) exercise or a practical simulation exercise, such as a fire or explosion drill, where the team participates in simulated mine rescue team exercises and wears breathing apparatus.
- (c) Upon request from the District Manager, the operator shall provide information concerning each designated team's schedule of participation in upcoming local mine rescue contests.



- § 75.1501 Emergency evacuations.
- (a) For each shift that miners work underground, there shall be in attendance a responsible person designated by the mine operator to take charge during mine emergencies involving a fire, explosion, or gas or water inundation.
- (1) The responsible person shall have current knowledge of the assigned location and expected movements of miners underground, the operation of the mine ventilation system, the location of the mine escapeways, the mine communications system, any mine monitoring system if used, locations of firefighting equipment, the mine's Emergency Response Plan, the Mine Rescue Notification Plan, and the Mine Emergency Evacuation and Firefighting Program of Instruction.

- (2) The responsible person shall be trained annually in a course of instruction in mine emergency response, as prescribed by MSHA's Office of Educational Policy and Development. The course will include topics such as the following:
  - (i) Organizing a command center;
  - (ii) Coordinating firefighting personnel;
  - (iii) Deploying firefighting equipment;
  - (iv) Coordinating mine rescue personnel;
  - (v) Establishing fresh air base;
  - (vi) Deploying mine rescue teams;
  - (vii) Providing for mine gas sampling and analysis;
  - (viii) Establishing security;
  - (ix) Initiating an emergency mine evacuation;
  - (x) Contacting emergency personnel; and
  - (xi) Communicating appropriate information related to the emergency.
- (3) The operator shall certify by signature and date after each responsible person has completed the training and keep the certification at the mine for 1 year.

THANK YOU

Mike Kalich

Division of Safety

[Kalich.michael@dol.gov](mailto:Kalich.michael@dol.gov)