

# It Happened...

On May 17, 1989, a mine examiner and assistant mine foreman were conducting a weekly examination of the return entries and bleeder evaluation points. They encountered smoke in a return at the bottom of a shaft. Upon further investigation, a fire was discovered in an idled area of the mine. The fire was fought directly with water. Mine rescue teams under apparatus manned the fire hoses. Subsequently, seals were constructed around the fire area and the area flooded.

On March 9, 1994, a fire occurred on a conveyor belt head drive. Persons working on the active section inby the fire location exited the mine through the main intake system. A company mine rescue team began fire fighting efforts and the fire was extinguished.

On May 14, 1994, a roof bolter noticed a fire at the back of his machine after returning to work after dinner. Applying rock dust and using a fire extinguisher failed to extinguish the flame. The mine rescue team was sent in to fight the flames. A water line was installed and the fire extinguished.



*Mine rescue teams making preparations.*

## Best Practices Fire Protection

Card No. BFP-11



MINE  
RESCUE  
TEAMS

*MINE RESCUE TEAMS need to be well organized and directed by mine management. All team members must know their area of responsibility and particular duties. Team members should have knowledge of the mine's ventilation system and location of fire fighting equipment.*

- **ALWAYS** maintain adequate airflow at your back to prevent smoke and contaminants from rolling back at you.
- **ALWAYS** brief mine rescue teams on the specific tasks to be accomplished.
- **ALWAYS** de-brief mine rescue teams for vital information learned during a mine emergency.
- **ALWAYS** provide a reliable means of communication with mine rescue teams and outby personnel.
- **ALWAYS** prepare to provide the necessary resources and logistical support to your mine rescue teams.
  
- **NEVER** allow untrained personnel to respond as part of a mine rescue team.
- **NEVER** assume anything during a mine emergency.

U.S. Department of Labor  
Mine Safety and Health Administration