

Department of Labor • Mine Safety and Health Administration • Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association

JAHSA Bulletin

MARCH/APRIL 2009



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The Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration and Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Bulletin contains safety articles on a variety of subjects: fatal accident abstracts, studies, posters, and other health and safety-related topics. This information is provided free of charge and is designed to assist in presentations to groups of mine and plant workers during on-the-job safety meetings. For more information, visit the MSHA home page at www.msha.gov.

Please Note: The views and conclusions expressed in Bulletin articles are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing official policy or, in the case of a product, representing endorsement by the Mine Safety and Health Administration or National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

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The CONSTITUTION

JOSEPH A. HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1:

This organization shall be known as the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association, as stated in its certificate of incorporation filed pursuant to the laws of the District of Columbia, dated the 19th day of February 1926. The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE SHEET

Section 1:

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, including, the making of distributions to organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code).

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association, in accordance with applicable law, may accept tax deductible contributions from individuals, corporations and associations in the mineral extractive

industries for the purpose of funding any scholarship program established or supported.

No part of the net earnings of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association shall insure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of Section 501 (c)(3) purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (1) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code) or (2) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Rev-

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enue Code (or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code).

Dissolution. Upon dissolution of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code (or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code) or shall be distributed to the Federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

ARTICLE III OBJECTIVES

Section 1:

The object of the Joseph A Holmes Safety Association, founded in the year nineteen hundred and sixteen, shall be to commemorate and perpetuate the safety efforts of Joseph A. Holmes, the first Director of the Bureau of Mines, United States Department of the Interior, and originator of the slogan "SAFETY FIRST."

Section 2:

The Association promotes the development of safety methods in the mineral-extractive industries, by:

Making awards to individual persons, corporations or associations, who originate, develop or install meritorious safety methods, appliances or devices in the mineral-extractive industries;

Making awards to operating personnel, companies and others who attain meritorious safety records;

Making special awards to individuals in recognition of personal heroism in the face of grave personal risk in saving or attempting to save lives of others in the mineral-extractive industries; and;

Establishing and supporting scholarship programs

at accredited educational institutions for undergraduate students enrolled in mining technology and mine safety programs.

Section 3:

The Association shall arrange and hold safety meetings, conduct safety campaigns, and provide for organized cooperative effort to encourage:

The prevention of fatalities and injuries and the improvement of the health conditions of all persons connected with mining, metallurgical, petroleum, natural gas, quarrying, and allied industries whether at work, in and about their homes, on public highways, or in public places.

The dissemination of information and instruction on subjects related to the promotion of health and safety in the prevention of plant or mine fires, explosions, or disasters from other causes.

The promotion of training in first aid, self-contained breathing apparatus, and other forms of protection and rescue and recovery operations.

The closest cooperative relations with existing organizations, including labor, management, and state and federal agencies that promote health and safety in the mineral and allied industries.

The promotion of educational, social and recreational activities in the mineral and allied industries, including cooperation with local and state school authorities, and other institutions in the advancement of health and safety education.

ARTICLE IV PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1:

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association shall consist of a National Council, state councils, district councils, and local chapters.

Section 2:

State councils shall be assisted and directed by the National Council, state councils may adopt their own bylaws which shall not conflict with this constitution nor the bylaws of the National Council and they shall adopt the name of the state in which they are established.

Section 3:

District councils which are formed in a state having a state council shall be directed and assisted by the state council. Where there is no state council, the National Council shall render such assistance as is practicable. District councils may adopt their own bylaws which shall not conflict with this constitution nor the bylaws of the state council to which it is subordinate nor the bylaws of the National Council. Each district council shall adopt a suitable name.

Section 4:

Local chapters that are formed in a territory in which there is a district council shall be aided and advised by the district council. Where there is no district council, the state council or National Council shall render such assistance as is practicable. Local chapters may adopt their own bylaws, which shall not conflict with the constitution nor the bylaws of the district and/or state council to which they are subordinate nor the bylaws of the National Council. Each chapter shall adopt a suitable name.

**ARTICLE V
JURISDICTION**

Section 1:

State and district councils and local chapters shall be subject to the policies established by the National Council. No activity, other than those stated in Article II and Article III, shall be engaged in by

state or district councils or local chapters, except upon approval of the National Council of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association.

Section 2:

Financial commitments of the local chapters and district councils shall be the sole responsibility of those subordinate units. The National Council shall not direct or control the expenditure or such funds nor shall the National Council be accountable for such monies. Each subordinate unit shall be responsible to comply with the laws of the state in which it is located and comply with any federal tax or other laws governing their activities. The tax exempt status of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association shall not be conveyed to any subordinate unit of this Association.

**ARTICLE VI
REVOKING CHARTERS**

Section 1:

The National Council shall have power to revoke any charter for just and sufficient cause and decide all disputed questions submitted to it.

**ARTICLE VII
AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Amendment Proposal. The Constitution may be amended by submitting proposals and supporting rationale to the National Secretary before the National Meeting. All proposed amendments must include an endorsement by a member of the Executive Committee or receive official support of the Executive Committee or receive official support of a District Council with copies of the minutes sent to the National Secretary. All proposed amendments must reach the National Secretary by January 31 of each year. The Secretary shall mail copies of such proposals with a response form to the members of the Executive Committee and of-

(See next page)

Officers. The response form shall provide a means of showing support for or against the proposal, space for comments and be returned to the National Secretary by a specified date. If a majority of at least 20 of the responses show support for the proposal, the National Secretary shall cause the proposal to be published in the Holmes Safety Bulletin at least 60 days before the National Meeting to allow comments from the membership. All comments received shall be copied and distributed to the members of the Executive Committee and officers at or before the Executive Committee session of the National Meeting. After any needed discussion, the President shall call a for a vote of the Executive Committee. With a majority vote of the Executive Committee, the proposal shall be recommended for a vote by the members present at the National Council meeting.

Voting of the Membership. Proposals recommended by the Executive Committee by paragraph (a) shall be accepted upon a two-thirds majority vote of those present at the annual meeting if at least 20 members of the Executive Committee are present. Such results shall be published in the next edition of the Bulletin.

**BY-LAWS
NATIONAL COUNCIL
JOSEPH A. HOLMES SAFETY
ASSOCIATION**

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the National Council shall consist of authorized representatives of state and district councils and of chapters nonaffiliated with state or district councils of the Association; authorized representatives of management, labor, and state and federal agencies; insurance companies, suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, and others whose work involves promoting objectives consistent with those of the Joseph Holmes Safety Association.

Section 2. OFFICERS

The officers of the National Council shall consist of a president, first vice president, second vice president, third vice president, fourth vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

***Section 3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(REPRESENTATIVES)***

The National Council officers, together with representatives of participating organizations and representatives from each mining area having active state councils, district councils or chapters, shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Members of the Executive Committee who, in the interim of their membership, retire (in good standing) from their position as an authorized representative of an interest group as specified in Section 10 (a) shall retain their post as Emeritus Member of the Executive Committee for the remainder of their elected term. Thereafter, such Emeritus Member's status of continued participation on the Executive Committee is welcomed and encouraged as an attendant and voting member and to serve in any capacity so appointed or assigned by the President, except for such post which explicitly calls for a duly authorized representative of an interest group as specified in Section 11 (a).

***Section 4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE***

All officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be elected annually by a plurality vote of the members present at the regular annual National Council meeting.

On or before March 31 of each year, State Councils, District Councils and members of the Executive Committee shall forward to the Secretary a Nomination Form for each person being initially recommended to serve on the Executive Commit-

tee. Nominations for members who are currently serving as Executive Committee members may be recommended by statement in lieu of a completed form.

All elected officers and Executive Committee members shall assume their positions at the conclusion of the annual National Council meeting at which time they were elected and shall serve for a period of one year.

Section 5. VACANCIES AND MEETING ABSENCES

All vacancies, occurring during the year through resignation, death, or removal of elected Officers, or members of the Executive Committee, shall be filled by the President by appointment for the unexpired term.

Vice Presidents and Executive Committee members must actively participate in the Holmes Safety Association. Vice Presidents and Executive Committee members who fail to attend at least two consecutive Annual National Council meetings will be contacted by the Secretary by certified mail to determine their interest in remaining as a member of the Executive Committee. This matter, including the reason for their absence will be brought before the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee to determine if their membership should continue. Individuals will be notified by the Secretary of the decision of the Executive Committee.

Section 6. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

The National Council through its officers and members of the Executive Committee, shall assist state councils, district councils, and local chapters. They shall assist with the organization of new councils and chapters, dissemination of information on the progress of the Holmes Safety Association, providing articles to the Bulletin and other matters of general interest within the scope of the Holmes Safety Association.

Section 7. PRESIDENT

The President shall call all meetings of the National Council and the Executive Committee and preside at them. The President shall appoint a nominating committee, a finance committee, an auditing committee and such other committees as deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the National Council, and assigns duties not otherwise provided for by the By-Laws of Constitution. The First Vice President of the preceding year automatically becomes the nominee for President.

Section 8. VICE PRESIDENTS

A. The four Vice Presidents shall represent each of the interest groups as specified in Section 11 (a) other than that interest group represented by the President. Except for resignations or death, the Vice Presidents shall rotate from Fourth Vice President to President, one position each year. Persons elected to fill a vacancy as Vice President shall be assigned from Fourth Vice President to President, one position each year. Persons elected to fill a vacancy as Vice President shall be assigned the Fourth Vice President's position regardless of how the position vacated. The Fourth Vice President elected or otherwise appointed shall be filled by a person from a different state than that of the current Presidential and Vice Presidential officers.

B. The Vice Presidents shall assist the President and other officers in conducting the work of the National Council.

C. In the absence of the President, the highest ranking Vice President who is present at a meeting shall assume the duties of the President.

Section 9. SECRETARY

The Secretary of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association shall be the official contact person for all matters of business and shall provide all official responses to correspondence between meetings. The

(See next page)

Secretary shall notify members of all meetings of the National Council and the Executive Committee; transmit all official communications of the Council; and keep record of all meetings and proceedings of the National Council and Executive Committee. Upon application of properly constituted state and district councils and local chapters, the Secretary shall cause to be issued all charters in accordance with the process approved by the National Council. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may be properly assigned by the Executive Committee and the President.

Section 10. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall receive all funds for the National Association and shall maintain proper accounting for these funds. The Treasurer shall pay all obligations of the National Association which have been properly presented. Annually or as necessary, the Treasurer shall prepare actual and budgeted expenses and the National Association's taxes. After approval, the Treasurer shall sign all contracts, grants, and any other agreements. If the Treasurer is not available, the President may sign these agreements. If the President is unavailable, then any Vice-President, except the Federal representative, may sign these agreements. The Treasurer may recommend the investment of surplus funds and recommend how to allocate budgeted funds to assure fiscal integrity.

Section 11. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

COMPOSITION. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the following: representatives from each state council, representatives from district councils, at large representatives from each of the interest groups to wit: (1) organized labor, (2) industry management, (3) state enforcement agencies, (4) federal agencies, and (5) manufacturers, suppliers or insurance groups, academia and contractors.

DUTIES. The Executive Committee shall be the overseer of the National Association. No business shall occur before the membership in the reg-

ular session until the Executive Committee has reviewed and recommended such. The Executive Committee shall hold at least one meeting each year at a designated time and place by the President. The Executive Committee shall plan and promote national accident prevention campaigns and provide suitable trophies for the winners. It shall supervise the activities of the Association. The Executive Committee shall have authority to employ such clerical and other assistants as may be necessary to carry out the responsibilities and duties of the National Council. At least one regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee for conducting business shall occur before the regular annual meeting of the National Council. The designated time and place of the meeting will be selected by the President from the appropriate zone as noted in Section 11 (d). Other meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President, or at the request of any five members of the Executive Committee, held at a suitable time and place after written notice to its members at least thirty days before the meeting.

QUORUM FOR BUSINESS. There shall be a minimum of twenty members of the Executive Committee present before any business of the Executive Committee shall be deemed official. This shall not prevent the Treasurer from paying any obligations of this Association which have been properly presented for payment when a quorum is not available.

SELECTION OF ANNUAL MEETING SITE. In order to reflect the national scope of the Holmes Safety Association, the Annual Society spring meeting location should be rotated among the following four zones listed below. Annual meeting site location will be rotated in the following order: Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3, and Zone 4. Each year, at the annual spring meeting, representatives from the following four zones may petition the Executive Committee to consider their particular location as a meeting site for the next meeting in their particular zone. Should no representative of a particular zone desire to host the next annual meeting, the annual meeting site will be rotated to the next zone.

Annual Meeting Site Locations

ZONE 1

Mississippi	Louisiana	Arkansas
Florida	Tennessee	South Carolina
Kentucky	West Virginia	Alabama
North Carolina	Virginia	Georgia
Washington, D.C.	Maryland	

ZONE 2

Washington	Oregon	Idaho
Montana	Wyoming	North Dakota
South Dakota	Nebraska	Minnesota
Iowa	Alaska	Missouri
Wisconsin	Illinois	

ZONE 3

Michigan	Indiana	Pennsylvania
Ohio	New Jersey	Delaware
New York	Rhode Island	Massachusetts
Connecticut	New Hampshire	Vermont
Maine		

ZONE 4

California	Nevada	Utah
Arizona	New Mexico	Colorado
Kansas	Oklahoma	Texas
Hawaii		

SECTION 12. COMMITTEE FORMATION

The committee structure shall be presidential appointed consisting of five members from the Executive Committee, one of whom shall serve as chairperson. Committee members should represent each of the five interest groups (1) organized labor (2) industry management (3) state enforcement agencies (4) federal agencies and (5) manufacturers, suppliers or insurance groups, academia

and contractors. Representation from each interest group shall be a primary consideration for all committee involvement.

The President may appoint an appropriate number of executive committee members to a specified committee as necessary, when representation of an interest group is unavailable. The President shall

(See next page)

appoint the Committee with each member of the Committee representing a different state, and designate a chairperson.

C. Each Vice President shall oversee at least one committee and the Vice President may not be a member of that committee. Generally, the Vice-President representing any of the following interest groups identified in brackets in the description of the committee in Section 13 shall oversee that committee.

SECTION 13. COMMITTEE DUTIES

A. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** (State enforcement agencies, manufacturers, suppliers or insurance groups, academia and contractors). The Nominating Committee shall review all nominations and recommend nominees for all elective offices, for members of the Executive Committee, and for representatives on the Board of Directors of the Joseph A. Holmes Association. All nominations shall be recommended by at least one member of the Executive Committee, a district council or a state council. Nominations shall be submitted to the secretary/treasurer on or before March 31. The Secretary shall forward all nominations to the chairperson and members of the nominating committee no later than April 15. The chairperson shall communicate with the members prior to the National Council Meeting and prepare a proposed slate for presentation to the Executive Committee. Upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the slate shall be presented to the National Council meeting for a voice vote and approval by a majority of those present.

Meetings of the Nominating Committee shall be called by the chairperson at a convenient time prior to the National Council Meeting.

B. **FINANCE COMMITTEE.** (Organized labor, manufacturers, suppliers or insurance groups, ac-

ademia and contractors). The Finance Committee shall conduct periodic reviews of the Association's actual and budgeted expenses, make recommendations for the investment of surplus funds, recommendations to reallocate budgeted funds, and any recommendations that may be deemed necessary to assure the fiscal integrity of the Association. The National Treasurer shall not be a member of the finance Committee but shall attend its meetings.

C. **AUDIT COMMITTEE.** (Industry management, manufacturers, suppliers or insurance groups, academia and contractors). The Auditing Committee shall at least once a year examine and audit the funds and securities belonging to the National Council and report thereon at the annual spring meeting of the National Council. The National Treasurer shall not be a member of the Auditing Committee but shall attend its meeting.

D. **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.** (Organized labor, manufacturers, suppliers or insurance groups, academia and contractors). Scholarship for Mining Committee will administer the Scholarship Program through established procedures and guidelines, with the approval of the executive committee. The Scholarship program will be financed through specified donations to the scholarship for mining fund. The National Treasurer will receive funds and maintain a separate account for this purpose and provide the executive committee with an annual report for review and approval.

E. **PROGRAM COMMITTEE.** (Federal agencies, manufacturers, suppliers or insurance groups, academia and contractors). The Program Committee is formulated to develop and coordinate the Annual National meeting in accordance with an identified zone outlined in Section 11 (d). The committee will arrange all appropriate accommodations as necessary in fulfilling safety educational objectives related to mining interests. The chairperson may delegate specific Program components of interest to committee members and strive in a col-

lective effort to accomplish informational goals. A committee representative shall report the Program Committee's strategies for the following national meetings.

F. REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE. (Organized labor, manufacturers, suppliers or insurance groups, academia and contractors). The Revitalization Committee shall plan, develop and promote meetings to encourage active membership throughout the states mentioned in Section 11 (d). Committee members are to assist in the promotion of safety educational emphasis by organizing, producing, and distributing informational media to enhance communications among interested parties. The committee will identify potential growth areas and provide assistance towards establishing new or reviving existing chapters and councils as necessary. A committee representative shall report the current status and future progression strategies concerning Revitalization efforts.

G. AWARDS COMMITTEE. (Manufacturers, suppliers or insurance groups, academia and contractors). The Awards Committee shall review all referred award applications and recommend approval or disapproval according to their specified criteria. The chairperson is to correspond with the National Secretary and the committee members in disseminating award applications submitted. Each committee member shall respond to the chairperson as award applications are received and evaluated. The committee shall monitor award activities and may suggest potential improvements for the recognition of industry safety efforts as necessary.

H. CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE. (State enforcement agencies, manufacturers, suppliers or insurance groups, academia and contractors). The Constitution Committee shall monitor all active committee activities in reference to existing Constitution guidelines. The chairperson along with constitution committee members may recommend amendment development to the By-laws or Consti-

tution. The committee shall report all amendment proposals and committee activity relative to the By-laws and Constitution.

SECTION 14. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

AMENDMENT PROPOSAL The By-laws may be amended by submitting proposals and supporting rationale to the National Secretary before the National meeting. All proposed amendments must include an endorsement by a member of the Executive Committee or receive official support of a District Council with copies of the minutes sent to the National Secretary. All proposed amendments must reach the National Secretary/Treasurer by January 31 of each year. The Secretary shall mail copies of such proposals with a response form to the members of the Executive Committee and officers. The response form shall provide a means of showing support for or against the proposal, space for comments and be returned to the National Secretary by a specified date. If a majority of at least 20 of the responses show support for the proposal, the National Secretary shall cause the proposal to be published in the Holmes Safety Bulletin before the national meeting to allow comments from the membership. All comments received shall be copied and distributed to the members of the Executive Committee and officers at or before the Executive Committee session of the National Meeting. After any needed discussion, the President shall call for a vote of the Executive Committee. With a majority vote of the Executive Committee, the proposal shall be recommended for a vote by the members present at the National Council meeting.

VOTING OF THE MEMBERSHIP. Proposals recommended by the Executive Committee by paragraph (a) shall be accepted upon a two-thirds majority vote of those present at the Annual Meeting if at least 20 members of the Executive Committee are present. Such results shall be published in the next edition of the Bulletin.

Professional Miner: Paul Ruiz

Paul Ruiz received his Professional Miner Certificate at the Northwest Ohio Council meeting on February 10, 2009.



L to R: John Crawford, President, Northwest Ohio Council; Herb Bilbrey, MSHA MNM Mine S&H Inspector, Hebron Ohio Field Office; Paul Ruiz, Electrician, Graymont Dolime; Keith Hille, Manager, Graymont Dolime

Event Schedule

June 2 - 4, 2009

JAHSA National Conference

Location: Hilton Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Larry Harshbarger, 317-407-0956
Larry.Harshbarger@heritagesafety.com

June 4 - 6, 2009

Nevada Mine Rescue Contest

Location: UNR Fire Science Academy,
Carlin, NV

Contact: Randy Squires, rsquires@unr.edu

Web site: (information to be updated)
<http://fireacademy.unr.edu/>

June 23 - 24, 2009

***3rd Annual Conference on Substance Abuse of
the Mining Industry***

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Contact: Dana Hughes, 866-864-6377

July 21 - 23, 2009

Colorado State MNM Mine Rescue Contest

Location: Idaho Springs, CO

Contact: Harry.Lovely@state.co.us

August 12 - 14, 2009

Northern Mine Rescue Contest

Location: Rochester, NY

Contact: Barry_Carlson@cargill.com

August 18 - 20, 2009

Construction, Maintenance and Repair Seminar

Contact: Tom Bonifacio, 304-256-3357,
bonifacio.thomas@dol.gov

October 13 - 15, 2009

TRAM & National Instructors Seminar

Location: National Mine Health and Safety
Academy, Beaver, WV

Contact: Bob Glatter, 202-693-9575,
glatter.robert@dol.gov or
Belinda Browning, 304-256-3326,
browning.belinda@dol.gov



2009 National Joseph A. Holmes Conference

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association, the Mine Safety Institute of America, and the National Association of State Mine Inspection and Training Agencies are pleased to invite you to our

2009 Joint National Meeting

The 2009 meeting will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the Hilton June 2 - 4, 2009. This meeting will provide a variety of Safety and Health workshops presented by experts from around the U.S. and representing all sectors of mining.

The Hilton Indianapolis is located conveniently in the heart of the downtown business district, just one block from Monument Circle, Circle Centre Mall, and the State Capital. Many great restaurants, attractions and all the excitement of downtown Indianapolis are within walking distance. Indianapolis also boasts the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Children's Museum, the Indianapolis Zoo, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art.



Web sites of Interest:

Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association –
www.holmessafety.org

Hilton Indianapolis –
www.indianapolis.hilton.com

City of Indianapolis -
www.indy.gov.org/home.htm

Indianapolis Convention & Visitor's Association -
www.indy.org/indianapolis/web/jsp/index.jsp

For Additional Information Feel Free to Contact:

Larry Harshbarger –
larry.harshbarger@heritagesafety.com
Office Phone – (317) 875-4670

Or

Ruth Messel –
rmessel@peabodyenergy.com
Office Phone – (812) 743-5320



Workers prepare coffins for transport at the Scofield Wasatch Store in May 1900.

Miners Are a Tough Lot — Underground Coal Miners Doubly So

By RED, Inc. Communications

Brave beyond the limits of most modern men, underground coal miners are the types of guys who pick their teeth with masonry nails and spend the workday wrestling with the hydraulic controls of longwall cutters.

One simple word, however, will make these men shake in their steel-toed boots — afterdamp.

An afterdamp is the toxic cloud of gas that follows an underground explosion. Part carbon monoxide, part carbon dioxide and part nitrogen hydrogen sulfide, an afterdamp chokes, poisons and quickly disables the human body.

Miners struggling to escape a wrecked mine are generally laboring physically and taking deep, full breaths. When the afterdamp hits, it completely replaces the oxygen layer in a mine and those deep inhalations fill the lungs with heavy poison. Starved for oxygen, the body slowly loses functionality and succumbs to asphyxiation.

For miner W.C. Wilson, afterdamp was a word he knew well. A long-time employee of the Pleasant Valley Coal Company's Winter Quarters Mine near Scofield, Utah, Wilson had experienced a number of explosions in his career.

The explosion that ripped through the Winter Quarters Mine at 10:28 a.m. on May 1, 1900, however, was like nothing Wilson had ever heard. Wilson and six other men were working in the lower regions of the mine when the blast occurred and Wilson knew immediate action was required.

“There was a low rumbling noise heard in the distance followed by a sort of a wave that can hardly

be described,” Wilson said in the days following the disaster. “I was convinced that it was indeed an explosion and advised my comrades to hasten with me to the mouth. We were none too soon, for the afterdamp reached us some three or four minutes before we reached the open air, almost suffocating us.”

Wilson and his crew escaped, racing to the opening of the Winter Quarters No. 1 Mine. Others working higher in the mine were not as lucky. Hearing the explosion but not knowing where it occurred, many miners attempted to escape through the No. 4 Mine entrance that offered a quicker route to the surface. The explosion originated in the No. 4 Winter Quarters Mine, however, and those miners were quickly overcome by the afterdamp and perished.

Just two men in the No. 4 Mine escaped as did 103 others in No. 1. When the death toll was complete, 200 miners were reported dead. Over the next 14 years, four other coal mine disasters recorded higher death tolls than Scofield. On Tuesday, May 1, 1900, however, the Scofield Mine disaster was the worst mining accident of any kind in United States history.

You load 16 tons, what do ya get?

In 1900, coal miners were paid by the ton. To maximize total tonnage, it was standard procedure to plant a blasting shot into the wall of a mine and ignite the shot with miners waiting nearby. Walking in and out of the mine was considered wasted time, and wasted time meant wasted money.

The cache of blasting powder was also close at hand, allowing crews to more quickly assemble, plant and ignite their blasting shots.

In an inquest conducted by Justice of the Peace William Hirst, State Mine Inspector Gomer Thomas said the blast was likely caused by a heavy shot of loose giant powder or loose powder exploding.



A group of Finnish Americans pose for a photograph in Scofield, Utah.

“The giant powder went off, caught the dust and exploded it,” Thomas said. “I went to a place where it was claimed they had powder stowed away and the place showed that the explosion had started here and showed further by the action of the explosion and by the body that was found there that it was burned more than the other bodies which we found.”

Ultimately, no official blame was assigned to any single miner or the Pleasant Valley Coal Company. Finding no fault was consistent with the other mining disasters of the day.

Not consistent with the mining disasters of the day, however, was the remarkably high survival rate at the accident site. With just 105 survivors, nearly more than one in three miners survived the accident.

Miner John Wilson was working near the mouth of the mine, and by all logic, should also have died on May 1, 1900. The blast blew out the face of the mine, sending Wilson 820 feet down a ravine. Wilson was found lodged against a tree with a crushed skull and a splintered piece of wood protruding from his torso. He was taken to St. Marks Hospital in Salt Lake City where doctors placed a steel plate in his head.

(See next page)

The deceased miners left behind an estimated 113 widows and 306 fatherless children, crippling the tiny mining community of Scofield. Of the dead, 61 were Finnish immigrants. One Finnish family with the surname Louma lost eight family members in the blast. Craig Fuller of the Utah State Historical Society estimated the entire Finnish population in Utah at the time at 300. Approximately one in five died in the Winter Quarters Mine.

“It devastated the Finnish community in Utah,” Fuller said. “So what do you do? You are isolated, your breadwinners are all killed. It was a tremendous economic and social impact on them.”

References

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A Truck, Some Tools and a Quarry Dream

By RED, Inc. Communications

Other than Christmas morning, the best day a first grader ever has is the day he or she gets a gold star from the schoolteacher.

Win the spelling bee? Get a gold star.

Read Charlotte's Web over Thanksgiving break? Get a gold star.

Help the teacher dust the blackboard and clean the erasers? Get a gold star.

There's nothing quite like the proud smile Miss Clearwater gives you when she sticks that sticky piece of gold foil squarely in the center of your forehead. It's nearly enough to make you skip recess and work on your times tables.

Most of us gave up that simple gold star pleasure years ago. Mark Morey, however, is living that grade school dream.

With safety stickers slapped all over his white hardhat, Morey is the model of mining safety. Honored repeatedly for his safety record over his 22-year career at the Champlain Stone Quarry in Warrensburg, New York, Morey's safety stickers run up and over the crown and on each side of his work helmet.

Considering he has never had a reportable accident on the job site, Morey is understandably proud. He is also very realistic about the hazards inherent in the mining industry.

“A little bit of my safety record is luck, and a lot of it is going by the rules and using common sense,” Morey said. “The safety courses keep your



Mark Morey

mind focused on a lot of the things that you would do. But really, everybody kind of watches out for each other and that seems to have worked pretty well.”

When he says that the miners at Champlain Stone look out for each other’s safety, Morey knows what he is talking about. Morey is the Superintendent at Champlain Stone and has a first-hand working knowledge of the operation. Considering he works on a different section of the quarry nearly every day, Morey’s safety record is even more impressive.

“As the Superintendent, I’ve done everything here,” Morey said. “I’ve split in the bays, I’ve operated the guillotines, I’ve operated all the equipment. I do everything. When someone doesn’t show up, I’m the fill-in.”

Between the weekly Toolbox Talk safety meetings and constant over-communication of safety expectations, miners at Champlain Stone enter the job site each day with a healthy respect for mining dangers. Still, some miners need reminders from time to time.

“Everyone here would speak up if they saw something wrong and we encourage that,” Morey said. “I’ve seen people injured and the effect it has on

them. I know what that does and how that makes you feel, so I try to avoid that.”

Thanks, Bro

When his brother Michael Morey opened the Champlain Stone Quarry in 1982, the mine was a one-man operation. Mark funded Michael’s quarry dream by providing basic tools, a vehicle, and \$5 a day for expenses.

After the orders for South Bay Quartzite, Ticonderoga Granite, and Corinthian Granite began to stack up, the workload began to exceed what Michael could handle alone. Four years after Mark originally funded his brother’s Champlain Stone startup project, he joined on to help Michael tackle the increasing maintenance headaches associated with heavy equipment operation.

The rest, as they say, is history.

“I didn’t work right with him, but I did all his maintenance work,” Mark said of his early days at Champlain Stone. “It just kind of grew around me. It wasn’t like I was going into a large mine to begin with. The mine just grew as the years went on.”

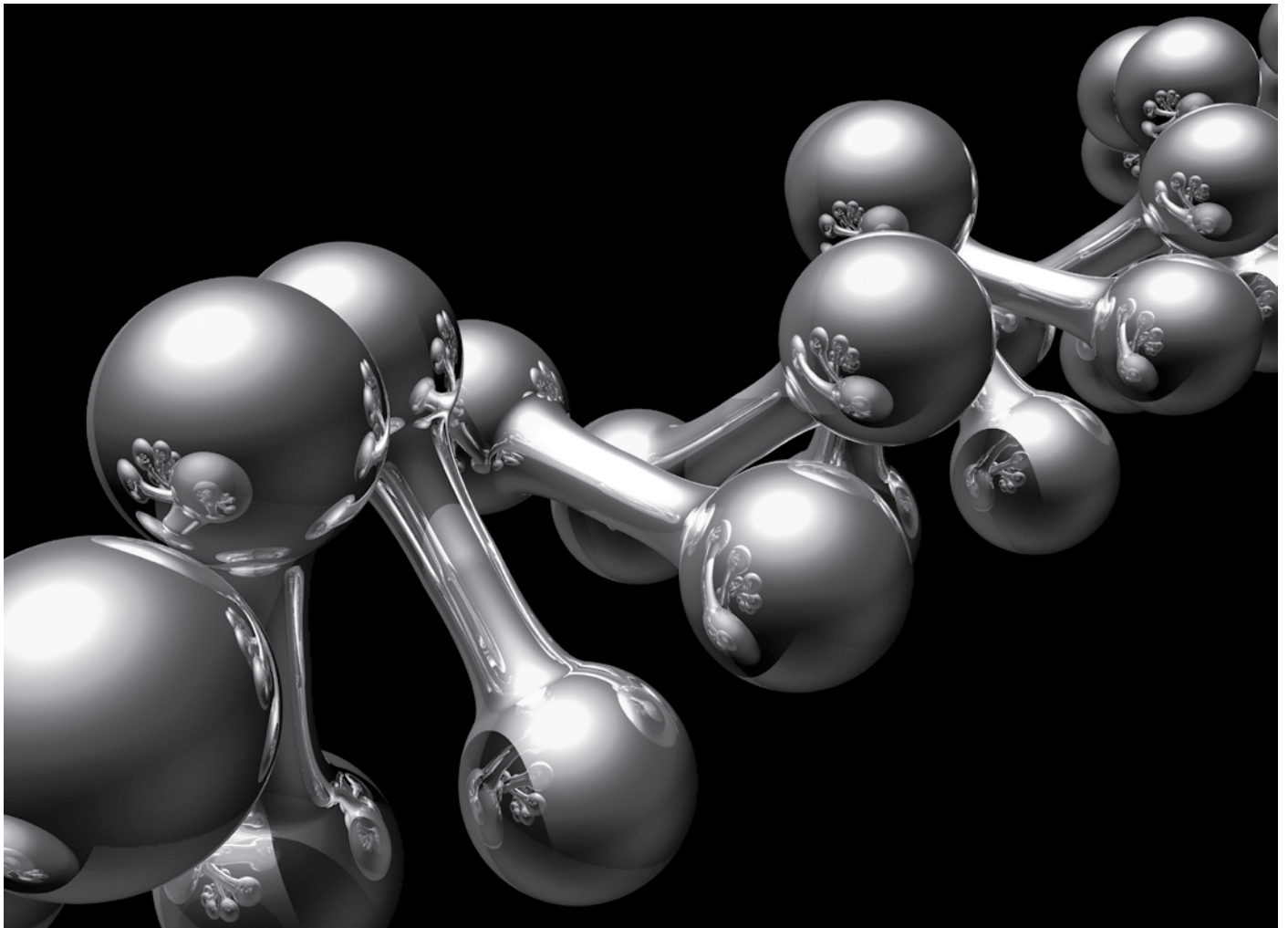
Twenty-six years after it opened, the quarry employs more than 200 and produces some of the world’s most sought after granite, limestone, and quartzite – all thanks to Mark Morey’s truck, tools, and a belief in his brother Michael.

Someone get that man a star. Make that a gold star.

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A DNA strand made of gold.

Modern Gold Does Much More Than Shine

By RED, Inc. Communications

In the ancient world, gold was basically useless. It was far too soft for weapons or tools and too rare for everyday use. However, gold was beautiful. Its soft yellow sheen captivated cultures throughout the world – from the Aztecs to the Egyptians to the Chinese – despite the fact that these cultures had little to no contact with one another.

Unlike other metals, gold did not react with oxygen and, therefore, did not tarnish or rust. Gold was also much more dense than most metals and a piece of gold felt almost magically heavy despite its size. These properties gave gold a timeless quality to the ancients, and subsequently raised it above all precious metals.

Despite having no value outside of its beauty, gold was valued above all metals and generally used as currency or to beautify. Wealthy ancient civilizations measured their worth against other nations using gold as a yardstick, adorning their leaders, buildings, and chariots with the soft metal.

The lure of gold brought the Spanish Conquistadors to North America in the 1500s, drove countless prospectors to California in the mid 1800s, and

caused men to trade their comfortable homes for the brutal Alaskan Klondike in the 1890s.

All the while, gold was basically a useless metal with no beneficial property outside of beauty. Today, beauty is only one of the hundreds of uses for gold. Used in everything from computer electronics to advanced vehicle emission controls to cancer diagnosis, gold's role in modern science reaches far beyond mere adornment or currency.

Teeth, Tumors, and Trucks

In the history of mankind, humans have refined enough gold to make a cube measuring approximately 66 feet on each side. At 1,204 pounds per square foot, that makes about 175,000 tons, and only recent technology has put any of that ore to practical use.

For decades, dentists regularly used gold due to its clay-like properties, resistance to deterioration, and total lack of toxicity. Dentists have often recommended a golden bridge or golden crown because that piece of shiny dentistry was likely to stay put for years.

Gold expands and contracts at a rate consistent with teeth. It doesn't stain, doesn't fracture, and rarely needs replacement. Considering your teeth spend all day, every day bathed in saliva, food, and bacteria, it is no wonder many dentists still prefer gold to other materials.

A more recent use of gold in health-care is the injection of radioactive gold into the body to help treat disease. In a 2008 study conducted by the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, a process using gold nanoparticles was shown to reduce cancer growth by 45 percent in just eight days compared with an untreated group.

A process using gold nanoparticles was shown to reduce cancer growth by 45 percent in just eight days . . .

A 2005 study illustrated how gold nanoparticles could allow for more efficient detection of cancer cells. Basically, the nanoparticles find the cancer, stick to it, and send up a rescue flare.

"Gold nanoparticles are very good at scattering and absorbing light," said Mostafa El-Sayed, director of the Laser Dynamics Laboratory and chemistry professor at Georgia Tech. "If you add this conjugated nanoparticle solution to healthy cells and cancerous cells and you look at the image, you can tell with a simple microscope that the whole cancer cell is shining. The healthy cell doesn't bind to the nanoparticles...With this technique, if you see a well-defined cell glowing, that's cancer."

Another gold rush is taking place in the automotive industry where engineers are starting to replace platinum in catalytic converters with gold and gold compounds.

Twice as expensive as gold, platinum has been the metal of choice in the production of diesel oxidation catalysts (DOCs). As such, DOCs are the most expensive component of a diesel vehicle's emission control system. The DOCs help reduce hydrocarbon emissions by increasing hydrocarbon oxidation activity.

Basically, DOCs clean up the dirty air coming from engines. DOCs using gold do this cleanup at a rate nearly 40 percent higher than a standard platinum DOC when calculated for equal cost. Using a gold-platinum-palladium formula, engineers hope to meet new catalyst performance targets currently out of reach.

To Infinity and Beyond

Oxygen is an incredibly reactive element and forms oxide compounds with nearly every element on the periodic table. Oxygen is the third most common element in the universe and comprises 89 percent of the water mass and 21 percent of the atmosphere on Earth.

(See next page)



One of two golden discs launched in the early 1970s now traveling through interstellar space on one of the Voyager spacecraft.

Gold resists oxygen, heat, moisture, and most corrosive agents better than most any metal. The same properties that make gold perfect for jewelry make it perfect for extreme electronics.

The concentration of free electrons in gold is very high, making gold an extremely efficient conductor of electricity. Gold is also the most malleable and ductile metal. A single ounce of 24-karat gold can be flattened into a translucent sheet of gold leaf 300 square feet in area.

Considering all these properties, gold is a perfect material for extreme electronic engineering. When NASA sends a rover to roam the red sands of Mars, its internal computer wiring is spun from gold. When the Hubble telescope gets a new motherboard for its computer, its contacts are welded with gold. When a jet engine climbs 40,000 feet into the atmosphere day after day, it does so without the threat of wiring fatigue because the wires are made of gold.

Launched in 1972 and 1973, respectively, the Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 spacecraft left Earth on exploratory journeys into the solar system. Between them, the two spacecraft gave us our first close-up images of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune before escaping into deep space.

In addition to exploration, the Voyager designers expected there may be some extraordinarily remote chance that the craft would one day be found by an intelligent, alien civilization. Scientists in charge of the Voyagers included an informational disc detailing Earth's location, sounds from Earth, and images of mankind.

These two discs, now hurtling nearly 10 billion miles away into the depths of space, are made of gold.

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Tommyknockers: A Miner's Little Friend

By RED, Inc. Communications

Underground mining today is a very noisy business. Between the rat-a-tat of pneumatic tools, the deafening roar of longwall mining machines, and the constant hum of conveyor belts, ear protection is mandatory inside a modern mine.

Historically, however, men used hammers, picks, and shovels to move ore, coal, and dirt. Lunchtime was often quiet time when the miners put down their metal tools and let the sounds of the mine take over.

Insulated from the sounds above ground, there is nothing quite like the sounds deep inside a cave or mine. Water drips, rodents scurry about, standing beams creak, and crossbeams croak. These strange noises echo up and down the mine walls where they join, break, and vanish into the darkness.

While the old-time miners could not always agree on the source of these strange sounds, they could certainly agree the sounds were real. Some said they were the noises of the dead drifting up from hell. Others said the sounds were caused by the souls of miners who were killed in the mine.

Still others, however, blamed the noise on tiny green men known as tommyknockers.

Knock, Knock

Popularized by English tin miners in the southwestern county of Cornwall, the tommyknockers are basically little gnome-like creatures that work and live in underground mines. The old Cornish miners believed that tommyknockers were to blame for the odd mine sounds, odd mine occurrences, and basically anything odd happening in the mine.

Somewhat like an Irish leprechaun or one of Snow White's seven dwarves, the tommyknockers are clever little critters tapping the walls and digging alongside the miners. Tommyknockers can be a friend or an enemy, in part depending on how friendly or unfriendly you are to them.

To get the little green men on their side, miners of old would often leave breadcrumbs or other food scraps on the mine floor. It was believed that such a peace offering could win over the tommyknockers and the little men could help the miners avoid danger and find fortune. If you were a friend, it was believed a tommyknocker's tapping could lead you to a rich ore vein or away from an impending mine collapse. If you were not a friend, that same tapping could lead you to danger, darkness, and even death.

The "knocking" which gives tommyknockers their name comes from the cracking, creaking, and knocking that occur as the ground shifts just before a mine collapse. As a result, some miners thought the noise of the tommyknockers was a friendly warning of danger while others believed the little men were the cause of a collapse.

More than anything, tommyknockers are known as pranksters with a healthy sense of mischief. At any point during any shift, a miner had best be on the lookout for random and often irritating practical jokes played out by the tommyknockers.

If you lost your hammer, the tommyknockers took it. If you tripped and fell into the ore car, the tommyknockers put a stone in your path. If you were bonked in the head by falling debris, the tommyknockers were in the ceiling dropping tiny rocks.

When the Cornish tin mines began to shut down in the 1800s, tin miners, known as tanners, began to leave England in search of mining work. These skilled Cornish tanners became prominent members of mining communities in South Africa, Aus-

(See next page)

tralia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and California, just to name a few.

As the Cornish tanners spread throughout the world, so did the legend of the tommyknockers. The California Gold Rush of the 1840s drew thousands of tanners to the West Coast of North America and the tommyknockers came right along with them.

Though they could describe the appearance of a tommyknocker in great detail, few, if any, tanners actually admitted seeing one. The Cornish miners and their descendents had no doubts, however, that the little men were real and worked the mines daily.

A 1956 incident in California proved the legend of the tommyknockers was more than just superstition in the minds of the tanners. It was then that a deposit called the California Mother Lode was found in California's El Dorado County. Miners from throughout the state answered the call and joined the mining effort. Once the mass invasion of El Dorado County was underway, there were many men who refused to work the mine until something was done about the tommyknockers.

True believers maintained the new mines were not safe because the tommyknockers were under contract with other mines throughout the area. In order to bring the tommyknockers to the California Mother Lode, a group of miners convinced a general manager of an older mine to release the tommyknockers from their work agreement so the little men could staff the newer mines.

The manager agreed, the tommyknockers were released, and the miners went back to work – with help from some little green men.

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Summer Outdoor Safety Reminder

Jim Noonan, Staff Writer
OpenSource Connections

The days are getting longer. The air is getting warmer. Summer's on its way. And with summer comes a return to the outdoor activities we all enjoy. Which means now is a good time to review some of the information concerning insect-borne infectious diseases. This article describes two common diseases you should be concerned with, their causes and symptoms, and the methods you can use to protect yourself and your family.

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is caused by bacteria transferred to humans by the bite of infected Blacklegged Ticks. Symptoms of Lyme disease typically include headache, fever, fatigue, and skin rash in the affected bite area. While the disease is easily treated in its early stages, the infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the central nervous system if left untreated. Always consult your physician if you think you are experiencing any of these symptoms.

Lyme disease is on the rise. Statistics published by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that the incidence of reported cases of Lyme disease in the U.S. have increased from 8,257 cases in 1993 to 27,444 cases in 2007.

West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans primarily through the bite of mosquitoes which carry the virus from feeding on infected birds. Approximately 1 person in 150 infected with the virus may develop severe symptoms resulting in an inflammation of the brain or surrounding tissue known as West Nile encephalitis (or meningitis). Symptoms of a severe illness include headache, high fever, mental confusion, muscle weakness, convulsions, coma, and paralysis. Always consult your physician if you think you are experiencing any of these symptoms.

The CDC has also tracked the rise in incidence of West Nile Virus. In 1999, 62 cases were reported in the United States. In 2007, that figure had risen to 3,630 cases. In that same time the incidence of fatalities related to West Nile Virus rose from 7 to 124.

While Lyme disease and West Nile Virus are serious and growing health concerns to anyone who enjoys the outdoors, commercial insect repellent products are available that can greatly reduce the chance of tick and mosquito bites and help protect you from these diseases.

DEET

Diethyl-meta-toluamide, commonly abbreviated DEET, is generally recommended as the most effective repellent against mosquito and tick bites. A wide variety of products are available containing DEET in different strengths. When selecting a product, keep these guidelines in mind:

- More is not necessarily better. Products with DEET strengths greater than 50% provide about the same protection as those with 30% DEET.
- Products containing around 25% DEET provide an average of 5 hours of protection.
- Products containing around 5% DEET provide almost 2 hours of protection.

(See next page)

Picaridin

Picaridin, also known as Icaridin or KBR 3023, is the active ingredient in many products offering an alternative to DEET. Studies have shown that picaridin works as well as low concentrations of DEET with no serious toxicity.

Lemon Eucalyptus Oil

Lemon eucalyptus oil or Para-Menthane-3,8-Diol (PMD) has been shown to be an effective repellent against mosquitoes. Lemon eucalyptus oil provides protection similar to products with low concentrations of DEET. It can provide protection for up to 2 hours, but it is recommended that it not be applied more than twice a day.

Proper Use of Repellents

The FDA mandated product labels are always the best immediate source of information about the safe and effective use of any product. Always follow the label directions. In addition, the following are recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:

- Apply repellents only to exposed skin or clothing as directed on the product label.
- Never apply a repellent to cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.
- Do not apply repellent to eyes and mouth and do not spray directly into your face. Spray repellent on your hands first and then apply to your face.
- Do not spray in enclosed areas, such as inside a car. Avoid breathing a repellent spray, and do not use it near food.
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and water and bathe. Also, wash treated clothing before wearing it again.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends the following additional precautions be observed when using repellents on children:

- Insect repellents containing DEET should not be used on children under 2 months of age.
- Insect repellents containing Picaridin should not be used on children under 2 months of age.
- Oil of eucalyptus products should not be used on children under 3 years of age.
- Do not allow your child to handle the product. Apply repellent to your hands and use your hands to apply it to your child.

In all cases contact your Poison Control Center if you suspect an adverse reaction to an insect repellent.

Unfortunately, when it comes to outdoor recreational activities, ticks and mosquitoes are part of the package. And while the diseases associated with their bites can be a serious threat to your health, following these simple guidelines can help protect you and your family and help you to safely enjoy all your outdoor activities this summer.

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Knott County Calvary Miners Honored By Mine Safety And Health Administration



Kite, Kentucky, April 02, 2009 – Nine members of the second shift section crew at ICG Knott County’s Calvary Mine were honored by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) for their actions in treating the potential life-threatening injuries of a fellow crew member.

The Joseph A. Holmes Honor Award for Life Saving was presented to the following Calvary Mine workers: Paul Fleming, William Hughes, Justin Johnson, Phillip Johnson, Lawrence Kendrick, Timothy Roberts, Carl Duty, Randy Halcomb and Tim Thomas.

The group was recognized for their actions in treating the potential life-threatening injuries of Jonathan Tyler Ward, a roof bolter who was seriously injured in a machinery accident on March 28, 2008. Medical doctors credited Mine Emergency Technicians (METs) and other employees for their outstanding efforts in treating Mr. Ward’s injuries.



While state regulations require a maximum of two Mine Emergency Technicians for a single mine section,

in this instance four METs helped treat Mr. Ward’s injuries.

Presenting the awards on behalf of MSHA were Norman Paige, District Manager – Pikeville;

Gerald W. McMasters, Staff Assistant; Timothy Watkins, Engineering Coordinator; and Vernus Sturgill, Whitesburg Field Office Supervisor.

ICG Knott County, LLC operates five underground mines and two preparation plants, employing over 100 Kentucky Certified Mine Emergency Technicians.



North Central Texas Holmes Council had a much smaller group than the “usual average of 30 attendees.”

Council Update March/ April

East Texas/Louisiana Holmes Council

The East Texas/Louisiana Holmes Council met April 16, 2009, at the Cotton Patch Café in Longview, Texas. The featured presentation was “Using Liquid Nitrogen” and was presented by Jack Reddick with Airgas. However, they also discussed the Dole Hills Incident and follow up questions regarding 30CFR Part 48. Update provided by Terry Davis of North American Coal’s Sabine Mine.

North Central Texas Holmes Council

The April meeting of the North Central Texas Holmes Council was held April 8, at Spring Creek Barbeque in Granbury, TX, hosted by Vista Sand & Gravel. We had only 12 attendees at this meeting; this is down from the usual average of 30 attendees. The meeting was very informative and successful despite the smaller attendance.

Gary Cook, MSHA Health Specialist, was a key presenter. He gave an excellent overview of some current staffing changes taking place. He reported on the additional health samples now being taken

due to the new goals of the Government Performance Results Act. He reminded members that the workplace exam meetings are starting. These meetings will show employees what to look for in workplace exams, what inspectors are looking for, and how citations affect operators’ overhead.

Our next meeting will be held in July. Update provided by Sandi Grant of TXI.



Our guest speaker was Gary Cook, MSHA District Health Specialist.

Letter from the Editor

As you may have noticed, we are attempting to maintain a Council Update section and an Event Schedule in every bulletin, so please continue to send me those updates.

Some basic information that most councils include:

- Name of council
- Date of meeting
- Location of meeting
- How many members attended
- The main topic(s) that was presented and who presented it
- The date and location of the next meeting

We are also in search of articles written by members. Article topics cannot be political or controversial. All articles must successfully pass a review process prior to being published. Grammar does not have to be perfect. Our staff will also review for grammatical accuracy.

If you send photos, we will need written permission to publish the photo. I can send you a release form for all in photo as well as the photographer to sign.

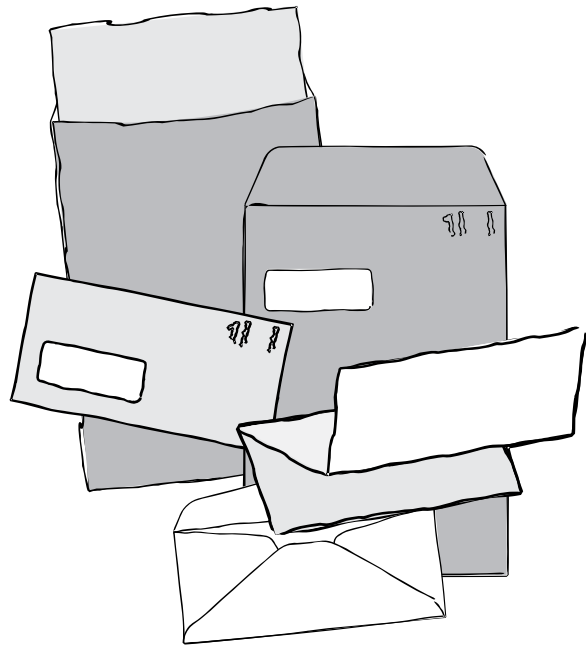
Thank you,
Belinda

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