

*Title: Solving the MERD puzzle?*

*This is what we have learned in Indiana in the short time that we have been involved with MERD training.*

**Point 1: Planning:**

*Planning without action is futile, Action without planning is fatal.*

*If you don't have the right tools, you can't plan or act properly.*

*Available resources:*

- 1. 5\* mine: read list*
- 2. Gibson mine: read list (Brief summary)*
- 3. Peabody mines: read list*
- 4. State supplies: read list.*

*\* Mapping of the mine maps is done by our Indiana geological survey. All mine maps are digitized and hard copies of the maps are kept at Bloomington, Indiana, except for the updated maps kept at the Bureaus' office.*

*We have assistance at the ready from our state National Guard, State Police, Homeland Security, Cave rescue, and any resource that is available if needed.*

**Point 2: Learning:**

*Learning is not a spectator sport.*

*Hands on is the best training too. You can have the knowledge to do open heart surgery by reading, but you become a skilled surgeon by performing the operation.*

*Since 2006 we have had seven mine emergency response drills. Plus the state has participated in drills from neighboring states. Three of our drills have actually in the mines themselves and one drill was a drill done in real time. We have done desk top drills, and met with the mines to discuss new ways to learn and better improve our preparation.*

**Point 3: Impossible:**

*It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows.*

*We must be open to change; the attitude that: "We have always done it this way does not necessarily mean, that we have always done it this way correctly. Times are changing, technology is changing, and we must be willing to change. (Commercial Solutions training.) Virtual reality situations.*

**Point 4: Recognize;**

***Recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency.***

*The MERDs are a learning experience each and every time that we are involved with them. We train as if we will use these skills today and pray that we never have to. We as a group of dedicated mining people are at this meeting to share, learn and hopefully teach those in the industry to recognize and correct problems before they happen. This is a priority.*

**Point 5: How do we motivate?**

*Lou Holtz, past coach of Notre Dame football said: Motivation is simple, you eliminate those who are not motivated. We need to make sure that all who are involved in our MERD training are educated and motivated to do what needs done. Motivation is the process of getting someone to do something you want done because they want to do it.*

**Point: 6: Leadership:**

*The best tools available that we have for Mine emergency operations are the people we surround ourselves with: Their most important tool is between their ears: We have the resources and must remember that:*

***“The task of leadership is not to put greatness into a person, but to illicit it, for the greatness is already there.”***