

Each month DMME personnel will be conducting monthly safety talks pertaining to Emergency Response and Preparedness. Topic-of-the-Month brochures and safety stickers will be handed out during these talks to help remind you of these critical safety points.



The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy has developed several award winning mine safety videos. These videos were made possible thru Grants from the Mine Safety and Health Administration and can be found on our website at:
www.dmme.virginia.gov

Mine Safety Videos:

- ♦ The Right Choice
- ♦ Step Up To The Plate
- ♦ Lead The Way
- ♦ No Way Out
- ♦ The Miners' Bond



Additional Information

For more information on the Virginia Topic-of-the-Month Mine Emergency Campaign, please contact:

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UNDERGROUND

MERD & QUARTERLY DRILLS



Virginia Department of Mines,
Minerals and Energy



Mine Emergency

February 2017
Topic-of-the-Month

MINE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

MERD Requirements

The Division of Mines (DM) Emergency Response Plan No. XIV requires that a MERD be conducted annually, preferably in conjunction with a Quarterly Mine Emergency Evacuation Drill.

The drill will consist of:

- A simulated mine emergency that causes a simulated deployment of mine rescue teams;
- Simulated entrapment of miners in the mine;
- A review of notification procedures required by ERP;
- A review and simulation of activation of the Emergency Logistic Plan as required by the ERP, No. XIII. There should be an authorized surface person to carry out the Emergency Logistic Plan at the Mine.

The DM will be notified at least three (3) days prior to conducting the MERD. A DM representative may monitor the simulated drill.

QUARTERLY DRILLS

- ⇒ Should be held at periods of time to ensure that all miners participate in such evacuations at least quarterly.
- ⇒ Each miner shall travel the primary or alternate escapeway, from the working section or the miner’s workstation, to the surface or the exits at the bottom on shaft or slope.



QUARTERLY DILLS—continued

- ⇒ At a minimum this drill will include:
 - Physically locating the continuous direction lifelines or equivalent devices and stored SCSRs.
 - Hands-on training in the complete donning of all types of SCSRs used at the mine, which includes assuming a donning position, opening the device, activating the device, inserting the mouthpiece or expectations training mouthpiece, and putting on the nose clip.
 - Hands-on training in transferring between all self-rescue devices used at the mine.
 - Where miners ride transportation vehicles to travel the escapeway, the person conducting the drill will stop at the locations of SCSR storage caches or other appropriate locations and conduct drills consisting of actual travel on the lifeline and practice with the tether line connected to each miner.
- ⇒ All miners on each working section will be familiar with the use of fire suppression equipment and fire suppression devices installed on equipment and know the location of such equipment and devices, plus the location of all firefighting equipment.

KEYPOINTS

- ⇒ Know the procedures for the rapid assembly and transportation of necessary miners, fire suppression equipment, and rescue apparatus to the scene of the mine emergency.
- ⇒ Know the mine wide location and use of firefighting equipment and materials.
- ⇒ Know the location of escapeways, exits and routes of travel to the surface, including the location and use of the continuous direction lifeline or equivalent devices.
- ⇒ An up-to-date map with primary and alternate escapeways and locations of RA’s and SCSR storage locations will be posted on the surface and maintained on the working sections.
- ⇒ Know the location, quantity, types, and use of stored SCSRs.
- ⇒ Ensure that an up-to-date list of emergency contact phone numbers is posted in a conspicuous location on the surface



KEYPOINTS—continued

- ⇒ Remember that SCSRs should be donned when smoke, odor, fire or any contaminated atmosphere is encountered.
- ⇒ The Emergency Notification List should include phone numbers for the following: (1) DM, (2) MSHA, (3) Mine Rescue Personnel; (4) Company/Safety Personnel; (5) EMS—rescue squad, local police, fire department, air ambulance, etc.

MINE EMERGENCY SAFETY CHECK

T	F	Not every miner needs to participate in MERD & Quarterly Drills?
T	F	During a drill hands-on training in transferring between self-rescue devices is required?
T	F	Enough SCSRs should be available at the mine to ensure that all miners can safely reach the surface?
T	F	It is not necessary to know where additional SCSRs are located in the mine?
T	F	It’s important to locate and travel the lifeline during a drill?
T	F	Ensure that an up-to-date list of emergency contact numbers is posted in the mine office?