

MINE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

The Mine Emergency Preparedness Program was created in 1992 to address the needs of underground and surface miners so that they can be better prepared, equipped, and trained to handle an emergency at their mine. The Program offers a number of firefighting courses and emergency response programs for underground and surface mines. These courses are held at the Academy for Mine Training and Energy Technologies in Core, W.Va.; the Mine Health and Safety Administration Academy in Beckley, W.Va.; and at coal mining sites.

In 2006, a self-contained self-rescuer (SCSR) expectations trailer was purchased that enables instructors to conduct the Mine Safety and Health Administration-required SCSR training at the mine site.

In 2009, a simulated coal mine was built at the Academy for Mine Training and Energy Technologies. The mine includes three entries with one entry having a continuous conveyor belt with a tailpiece and waterline, an overcast, stoppings, a mine fan, and models of mining equipment. The mine also contains a National Fire Protection Association approved burn room, which is extensively used for first responder, basic fire brigade, and advanced fire brigade firefighting training.



MINING EXTENSION SERVICE



PROGRAMS/SERVICES OFFERED BY MINE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

ON-SITE ASSESSMENTS

Through an on-site audit of your operation, Academy personnel are able to provide a comprehensive overview and risk assessment of the emergency response system in place at the mine. Strengths and weaknesses of the company's emergency response plan, firefighting equipment, water supply, and training levels of personnel are provided. The audit provides mine managers with an assessment of the mine's overall ability to handle a mine fire or other emergency.

FIRST RESPONDER FIRE TRAINING

The most important person in extinguishing a fire is the person who finds it, provided that he or she is properly trained. The first actions of this individual can mean the difference between a rapid and successful extinguishment and a long, and possibly mine-closing, event. The first responder course consists of two parts: classroom instruction on the basics of fire chemistry and fire extinguishment theory and hands-on training with a fire extinguisher and fire hose on a real fire.

BASIC FIRE BRIGADE TRAINING

This program is designed to train a mine fire brigade team in basic firefighting. The course includes instruction in the basic chemistry of fire, firefighter safety, personal protective equipment, firefighting equipment, and the use of a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). This two-day class includes wearing the SCBA and personal protective equipment in the simulated coal mine and extensive live fire training on propane-fueled fire props.

ADVANCED FIRE BRIGADE TRAINING

This course is designed for fire brigade teams who have completed basic fire brigade training. This two-day class

includes hands-on exercises in the simulated mine and on the fire grounds. Students have the opportunity to fight live fires in the burn room and are trained in the use of foam and other adjunct firefighting equipment. The burn room provides students with an environment that closely simulates an incipient and free-burning underground mine fire.

FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING FOR MINE RESCUE TEAMS

This course is very similar to the advanced fire brigade training, but allows mine rescue team members to wear their four-hour SCBA to fight fire problems in the simulated mine and in real-fire exercises on the fire grounds and burn room.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING

A relatively new class offered at the Academy for Mine Training and Energy Technologies, the course consists of classroom instruction on the basic chemistry and behavior of fire, firefighting procedures, hands-on fire training with dry chemical fire extinguishers and a charged hose line, SCSR expectations/smoke exercise including don and switch procedures, refuge chamber, and violation recognition.

ADVANCED FIRE CREW TRAINING

This program is offered to operations that desire more in-depth fire training, but not fire brigade training. The course covers fire chemistry and extinguishment theory in more detail, water supply systems, dry chemicals, more advanced hose line techniques, and the introduction of foam generation devices. This training is conducted at the Academy for Mine Training and Energy Technologies and is approximately eight hours of instruction, with hands-on experience, both on the fire grounds and in the simulated mine.