

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

JAHSA Bulletin

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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.

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Texas State Holmes Safety Association

by John Henderson

If you missed this year's Texas State Holmes Safety Association meeting, you missed a great one. On January 23 & 24, 2009, we held the meeting that was rescheduled when Hurricane Ike threatened Corpus Christi in September 2008. Sixty-five persons from across the state attended the meeting held at the Holiday Inn Emerald Beach. The weather was 82 degrees, and the sky was clear and perfect for a safety meeting.

Evaluations submitted by the attendees gave the presentations, the networking, and even the food top marks. There were eight councils represented; Big Country, Central Texas, Costal Bend, Heart of Texas, Hill Country, North Texas and North Central. Presentations included Workplace Examina-

tions, Emergency Preparedness, Screen Safety, Contractor Responsibilities, Powered Haulage, Supervising for Safety, and Basic Inspections of Slings and Rigging. Mr. Edward Lopez, SC MSHA District Manager, gave the State of the District Address.

New officers were elected:

President – Dana Glover Smith – TXI- Representing Aggregates

Treasurer – John Henderson- Representing State Grants

Stephanie Duran – VP – TXI- Representing Aggregates

Harry Conerly – VP – Aquamatrix--Representing Contractors

Danny Marschall – VP – Marschall Fire and Safety-Representing Contractors

Adan Ybarra – VP – Capitol Aggregates-Representing Cement

Ralph Rodriguez – VP – MSHA-Representing Mine Safety



From right to left, Marshall, Ralph, Stephanie, Danny, Dana, Harry, John, and Adan

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George Nadzadi – VP – MSHA-Representing
Educational Field Services
Marshall Davidson - Secretary – JM Davidson
Inc. –Representing Contractors

On behalf of the new officers, we would like to thank the exiting officers for a great two years of service. Each year the State meeting grows a little bigger and a little better. We hope that we can continue this tradition and help make Texas a safer state to work in for miners and contractors.

Spring Thaw Schedule

Field Office	Location	Place	Dates	Comments	Contact Name
1 Albany, NY	Albany, NY	Albany Airport Inn (Best Western Inn) Wolf Road	5-Feb-09	(518) 623-2352	Scott McKenna
2 Vacaville, CA	Stockton, CA	Clarion-Stockton 4219 E Waterloo Road	18-Feb-09	(707) 447-9842	Bruce Allard
3 Dallas, TX	Midlothian, Tx	Midlothian Conference Center 1 Community Circle	24-Feb-09	(214) 767-8430	Laurence Dunlap
4 Manchester, NH	Manchester, NH	13500 S Willow Street	24-Feb-09	(603) 224-2146	Robert Cole
5 Marquette, MI	St. Cloud, MN	Holiday Inn Division Street & 37th Ave	2-Mar-09	(906) 228-6805	Paul Blome
6 Wyomissing, PA	Wyomissing, PA	Reading Crown Hotel 1741 Papermill Road	3-Mar-09	(717) 626-9745	Lois Rollman
7 Peru, IL	Utica, IL	Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center	4-Mar-09	(815) 223-0697	Kevin LeGrand
8 Hebron, OH	Findlay, OH	Findlay Inn & Conference Center 200 East Main Cross St.	5-Mar-09	(740) 928-0479	Dennis Dobosh
9 Warrendale, PA	State College, PA	Celebration Hall 2280 Commercial Drive	17-Mar-09	(717) 626-9745	Lois Rollman
10 Green River, WY	Gillette, WY	Gillette College	18-Mar-09	(307) 871-1510	Gary Wolfe
11 Charlottesville, VA	Roanoke, VA	Boxley Materials, 15418 W Lynchburg Salem Turnpike, Blue Ridge, VA 24064	19-Mar-09	(804) 330-3312	Sam Hollins
12 Elko, NV	Elko, NV	Elko Convention Center	24-Mar-09	(775) 738-4091	Sally Meyer
13 San Antonio, TX	San Antonio, TX	Capitol Agg. Facility	24-Mar-09	(210) 403-5943	Ralph Rodriguez
14 Helena, MT	Libby, MT	Contact Phil Dahl	31-Mar-09	(406) 441-1180	Phil Dahl
15 Green River, WY	Green River, WY	Western Wyoming Community College, Green River Center	31-Mar-09	(307) 871-1510	Gary Wolfe
16 Boise, ID	Boise, ID	AGC Building	1-Apr-09	(208) 334-1835	Ronald Jacobsen
17 Helena, MT	Kalispell, MT	Contact Phil Dahl	1-Apr-09	(406) 441-1180	Phil Dahl
18 Helena, MT	Missoula, MT	Contact Phil Dahl	2-Apr-09	(406) 441-1180	Phil Dahl
19 Albany, OR	Redmond, OR	Eagle Creek Resort	3-Apr-09	(541) 924-8495	Brad Bredland
20 Kent, WA	Kent, WA	CenterPoint Confer. Center 20809-72nd Ave S #125	13-Apr-09	(253) 395-9585	Stephen Cain
21 Helena, MT	Billings, MT	Hilton Garden Inn	14-Apr-09	(406) 441-1180	Phil Dahl
22 Helena, MT	Lewistown, MT	Contact Phil Dahl	15-Apr-09	(406) 441-1180	Phil Dahl
23 San Bernardino, CA	Ontario, CA	Ontario Hilton	29-Apr-09	(909) 890-1987	Kevin Hirsch
24 Mesa, AZ	Mesa, AZ	Empire in Mesa, AZ on Country Club Drive and U.S. 60	30-Apr-09	(480) 649-5452	David Brown
25 Anchorage, AK	Anchorage, AK	Federal Building	12-May-09	(907) 271-1250	Don Horn
26 Boulder City, NV	Boulder City, NV	Pending	Pending	(209) 931-3197	Katie Gordon
27 San Juan, PR	San Juan, PR	Pending	Pending	(787) 749-4343	Luis Valentin





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 Revenue 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.

(See next page)

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 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

(See next page)

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 stand-

ing) 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 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 Committee. 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 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

(See next page)

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 regular 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.

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 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 the committee. Generally, the Vice-President representing the following interest groups as specified in Section 11(a) shall oversee the following committees identified in brackets in the description of the committee in Section 13:

SECTION 13. COMMITTEE DUTIES

A. NOMINATING COMMITTEE. (State enforcement agencies). The Nominating Committee shall re-

(See next page)

view 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). 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.

AUDIT COMMITTEE. (Industry management). 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.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE. (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.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE. (Federal agencies). 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 collective effort to accomplish informational goals. A committee representative shall report the Program Committee's strategies for the following national meetings.

REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE. (Organized labor). 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.

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.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE. (State enforcement agencies). 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 Constitution. 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.

MINE RESCUE TEAM COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

By Jacqueline H. Jansky, NIOSH

Introduction/History

Contact with the outside world is critical to a mine rescue team's safety and completion of a successful rescue effort. For many years, this contact was provided by a lifeline (rope) which, when tugged or jerked in a prescribed sequence, allowed basic tactile communication between the team and personnel at the fresh air base (FAB). The number of tugs indicated to personnel at the fresh air base what the team planned to do. The rope was also used to signal the FAB that the team was in trouble. This form of communication was not reliable over long distances due to the rope stretching or becoming hung up on corners of pillars or debris in entries and crosscuts.

The first significant improvement in mine rescue team communication occurred in 1921 in underground metal mines in the Lake Superior area, where a simple telephone system was incorporated into the mine rescue practices.

For safety reasons, this telephone system could not be used in underground coal mines where methane could be present.

Where the telephones could be used, people at the FAB could talk to team members, ask questions,

and pass along information from the command center. However, the poor quality of communication from the mine rescue team members, (partly due to their wearing the breathing apparatus mouthpiece or face mask), limited the type of information and sound quality coming from them. Therefore, long/short rings on the phone were generally used to answer yes/no questions from the FAB.

In 1939, the Bureau of Mines began to develop a battery-less mine rescue communication system that could not only allow two-way voice communications, but also could be used safely in explosive atmospheres and would allow two-way voice communication (See Figure 1).

Permissible throat vibration-powered transmitters sent signals back and forth along the communication line without the risk of methane ignition. Incremental improvements continued to be made and this type of communication system has been used by mine rescue teams ever since.



Figure 1, 1940s sound-powered mine rescue communication system

Feedback from mine rescue teams indicates that there are significant shortcomings with mine rescue communication systems that need to be addressed.

Some suggested improvements include clearer sound quality, wireless communication,

totally hands-free communication, and the ability for more than one team member to hear what the briefing officer at the fresh air base says.

These and other concerns have led to the development of a new generation of mine rescue team communication systems to address current system limitations.

Mine Rescue Team Members' Input

NIOSH researchers since the late 1990s have been looking at a variety of existing and emerging communication technologies to assess their utility for safe and effective mine rescue work. Feedback from mine rescue team members has identified issues or problems with the traditional sound-powered communication systems in use today. Typically, teams have cited:

- **Poor sound quality in existing systems.**
- **Cumbersome and uncomfortable headsets.**
- **The need for hands-free communication.**
- **The need for wireless communication to allow members to separate yet still be in touch.**
- **The benefit of more than one team member hearing the FAB transmissions or being able to speak to the FAB personnel.**

In addition to these comments from mine rescue team members, some mine rescue experts have expressed the desirability of their communication system being able to tie in with the mine's communication system which connects to the command center. This last consideration is of interest because the new generation of mine communication and tracking systems (required by the MINER Act of 2006) are to be strong enough to survive fires or explosions.

New Communication Systems for Mine Rescue

Mine rescue teams used several prototype communication systems during simulated mine rescue scenarios at the Lake Lynn Laboratory to see if they offered a functional improvement.¹

Res-Q-Com System

One communication system used by mine rescue teams and observed by NIOSH personnel was the

Res-Q-Com. Developed by TRANSTEK Incorporated, the system consists of a lifeline, hand-held radios, and a series of radio repeaters (See Figure 2). The Res-Q-Com System's most versatile feature is that it allows four separate modes of communication. By making adjustments at the lifeline reel and using various channels on the radios, it is possible to configure the system for:

- **Communication among team members only.**
- **Communication between the FAB and the command center.**
- **Communication between the FAB and rescue team.**
- **Communication among the FAB, rescue team, and the command center.**



Briefing Officer Using Hand-held Radio



Radio Repeater At Portal



Cable Reel



Radio Repeater Underground

Figure 2, The Res-Q-Com System

(See next page)

1. Forbes JJ, Griffith FE, Cash FE, and Peterson Max (1946) Mine Rescue Life-Line Telephone Assemblies. USBM RI 3875. 11pp.

The repeaters (hand-held radios enclosed in rugged housings) are the key components to the system. The repeaters are hung from roof bolt plates, roof screen, etc., starting at the mine entrance, to carry the signal to and from the command center. The rescue team places additional repeaters at critical locations in the mine as the team advances. While line of sight between hand-held radios and repeaters is necessary for the system to work, repeaters can be hardwired together where there are many turns and/or if the distance into the mine becomes too great.

A repeater is attached to the lifeline reel at the FAB and another one hung on the tail captain's belt. The tail captain wears a compact headset with either a throat or boom microphone. The entire system is powered by the radio batteries, including the radios used as repeaters; radios must be kept on charge when not in use.

Mine rescue team members' comments about the Res-Q-Com system include:

- **Good communication quality.**
- **It could be used hands-free if the radios were connected to headsets.**
- **Team members could get off the lifeline and still maintain communication.**
- **More than one team member could hear what the FAB personnel were saying or could speak.**
- **The headsets in the system were comfortable and convenient.**

Although the system was used successfully during mine rescue training sessions at NIOSH's Lake Lynn Laboratory, the manufacturer has decided that it will not be pursuing it and that it is no longer commercializing this technology because of resource demands to develop competing products.

Rescom® System

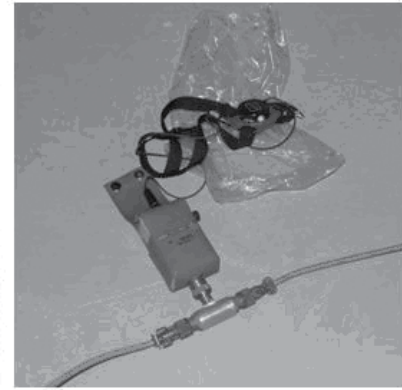
The Rescom® system, engineered and made in Canada, was originally designed to be used by civilian fire departments and rescue services. This battery-powered system uses a multiport junction box, link rope with imbedded transmitter cable or a rubber sheathed communication line, and headsets with ear phones and either a boom or throat microphone (See Figure 3). The manufacturer saw a potential use for its system in mine rescue and made modifications to the firefighter system to approximate the needs of mine rescue teams.

When the system was first used by mine rescue teams at the Lake Lynn Laboratory, team members complained of its bulk and their inability to step off the lifeline. The Rescom® system is hardwired and powered from the unit at the FAB. The team linkline acts as the communication cable itself and each team member controls the volume setting on the individual interface boxes. A team member's freedom of movement is limited by the cable between the headset and the interface box; all individuals have to be connected for the system to function.

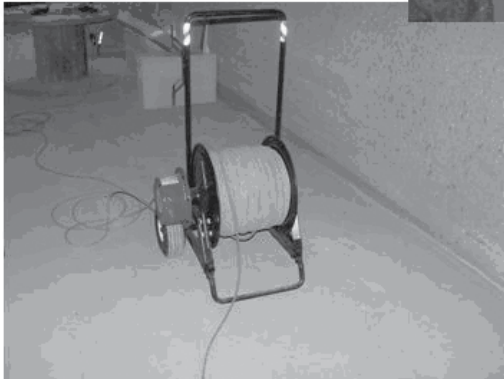
Team members liked the quality of the voice transmission and generally liked the small headsets. However, it was recommended that the microphone be incorporated into the apparatus face piece.

Changes were made to the system to make it possible for team members to disconnect from the link line and communication without affecting voice transmission capabilities for the other team members. The Rescom® system can be modified to allow any or all team members to hear the information coming from the FAB. However, during training sessions, it was determined by the team members themselves and the FAB attendant that only one or two team members should speak with FAB personnel.

**Mine Rescue Team
Member With
Complete Ensemble**



Link Line Assembly



Cable Reel



Ear Phone and Boom Mic

Figure 3, The Rescom® System

During the use of the Rescom® system in a series of mine rescue training sessions, MRT members made the following observations:

- **The quality of the communication was good.**
- **There was hands-free communication.**
- **Team members were unable to leave the lifeline and remain in communication.**
- **NOTE: A new configuration allows a team member to leave the lifeline without disrupting communication for others who stay on the line.)**
- **More than one team member could hear what the FAB personnel were saying or could speak.**

- **The headsets in the system were comfortable and convenient.**

The system has been approved for intrinsic safety by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and by the Underwriters Laboratories for other use in the United States.

Con-Space System

The Con-Space mine rescue communication system is very similar to the Rescom® system and is manufactured by Con-Space Communications in Canada. The Con-Space system was originally designed for confined space rescue and has been adapted for urban search and rescue as well as mine rescue applications.

(See next page)

Approved by MSHA for use in underground mines, Con-Space is powered by a battery-powered module located at the FAB module (See Figure 4). The system is hard-wired and provides full-duplex voice communication. It uses a full or compact headset with a boom or throat microphone.



*Figure 4, The Con-Space System
(Courtesy of Con-Space)*

With the Con-Space system, only the tail captain needs to be tethered to the lifeline. In order for multiple members to hear from the FAB, however, they must be hardwired to the lifeline. With only the tail captain tied to the lifeline, other team members are free to work off the line when conditions permit.

During the use of Con-Space in a series of mine rescue training/research sessions at Lake Lynn Laboratory, mine rescue team members made the following comments:

- **The sound quality was good.**
- **Hands-free communication was the norm.**
- **If only the tail captain was in communication with the FAB, team members could simply leave the lifeline.**
- **More than one team member could hear what the FAB personnel were saying while on the lifeline.**
- **The headsets in the system were comfortable and convenient.**

Conclusion

The purpose of this paper was to briefly discuss the history of mine rescue team communication and inform the mining community of several new mine rescue team communication systems used by mine rescue teams during mine rescue training research sessions at Lake Lynn Laboratory.

There are a number of other new mine rescue team communication systems in development or already submitted for MSHA approval. None of the mine rescue team communication systems demonstrated at Lake Lynn Laboratory met all the needs identified by MRTs. However, major improvements have been realized in comparison to the voice-activated or sound-powered systems developed in the 1940s. The next step is to investigate the MRT communications systems in use or being developed internationally and continue to demonstrate promising technologies under real world training simulations for the U.S. mining industry.

NOTE: The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

References

- Forbes JJ, Griffeth FE, Cash FE, and Peterson Max (1946) Mine Rescue Life-Line Telephone Assemblies. USBM RI 3875. 11pp.
- Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (MINER Act), Pub. L. No. 108-236 (S 2803) (June 15, 2006).
- NIOSH (2007) NIOSH Mining Safety and Health Research – Emergency Communications and Tracking. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/commtrack/commtrack.htm>



*Scott Harper,
receives award
for Back in Black
Mine.*

Five Safety Awards Presented to Phoenix Coal Corporation at Green River Coun- cil's Quarterly JAHSA Meeting

By Leland Payne, EFS

Phoenix Coal Corporation was honored with five safety awards at the quarterly meeting of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association (JAHSA), Green River Council in Owensboro, Kentucky, on December 8, 2008.

The following operations received a safety award:

The Back in Black Mine was awarded the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association's Certificate of Honor for working 100,826 hours from April 2004 through December 2007 without a fatal or permanent disability accident.

Island Dock was awarded the Certificate of Honor for working 51,814 hours from July 1, 2005, to March 31, 2007, without incurring a lost-time accident.

At the same meeting, three other Phoenix operations received the Mine Safety and Health Administration's Sentinels of Safety Award:

The Beech Creek Mine was presented the Sentinels of Safety Award by MSHA for working 33,337 hours in 2007 without a lost-time accident.

The Rockcrusher Mine was presented the Sentinels of Safety Award by MSHA for working 11,921 hours in 2007 without a lost-time accident.

The Providence processing facility was presented the Sentinels of Safety Award by MSHA for working 8,146 hours in 2007 without a lost-time accident.

Phoenix Chief Operating Officer, Matt Haaga, commented, "I'm very proud of our employees who've worked hard to achieve these outstanding records. Receiving awards from organizations such as the Holmes Safety Association and MSHA is a great recognition of their efforts. The commitment to safety and compliance is the corporate priority at Phoenix Coal."

Vice President of Operations, Danny Wooton, attributes the safety accomplishments to a team effort. "The commitment to safety and compliance requires a focus by every individual every day. That's not an easy thing to do, but with great employees and a dedicated management team, it can be done. At Phoenix, we're fortunate to have both."

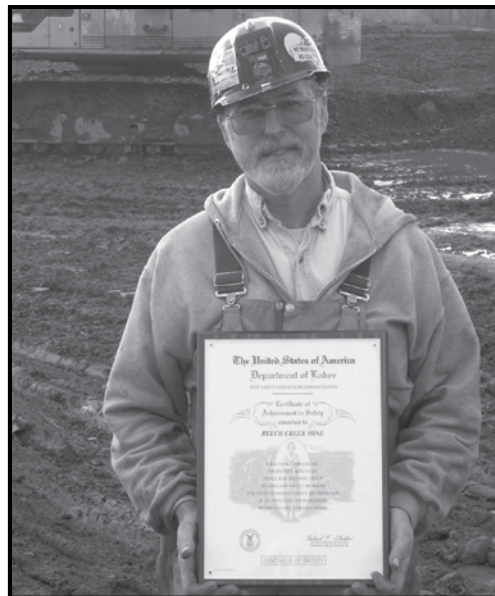
"The state and federal inspectors also play an important role in our safety record. Regardless of what some may think, there are strict federal and state mining regulations, and the individuals that enforce these laws take their jobs seriously. While the ultimate recognition deservedly belongs to our miners, it takes a team effort to keep a daily safety focus, which is our highest priority," he continued.

Phoenix currently operates four surface coal mining operations in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, and a barge loading facility on the Green River. Development plans for additional surface operations, as well as an underground mine, are underway.

(More photos next page)



Charles Giffin, receiving an award.



Randy Ganis receives award for Beach Creek Mine



Robert Pierce, receives award for Island Dock.



Randy Durham, receives award for Mine No. 1

Event Schedule

April 15 - 17, 2009

2009 Mine Trainers Association Conference

Location: Rend Lake Resort, Rend Lake, IL

Contact: John Howard at howardj@iecc.edu or (217) 627-3843

April 28 - 30, 2009

Southern Regional Mine Rescue Contest

Location: New Iberia, Louisiana

Contact: hcharpentier@mortonsalt.com

April 30 - May 1, 2009

North Carolina Mine Safety and Health Conference

Location: Sea Trail Resort and Conference Center, Sunset Beach, NC.

May 12 - 14, 2009

Kansas Shootout Mine Rescue Contest

Location: Hutchinson, KS

Contact: dobrinski@hutchcc.edu

May 15 - 16, 2009

Central Idaho Mine Rescue Contest

Location: Kellogg, ID

Contact: cmrescue@cebridge.net

May 19 - 21, 2009

Southwestern Regional Mine Rescue Contest

Location: Ruidoso, NM

Contact: Buddy.Webb@wipp.ws

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)

Website: (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 Bonifacio.thomas@dol.gov or 304-256-3357

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



Council Updates:

The Heart of Texas Council, better known as **HOT**, met on January 15 at Michna's Barbeque Restaurant in Waco, Texas. There were 13 members present. The program was presented by Danny Marshall of Marshall Fire and Safety. Following the meeting, election of officers for 2009 was held.

New Officers:

President: Darlene Sullivan, Buckley Powder Co.

Vice President: Keith Wallis, US Silica

Secretary: Tom Jones, G3 Drilling and Blasting.

The next meeting will be held on April 9, at Michna's Barbeque at 11:00 AM. Submitted by Darlene Sullivan.

The Minnesota Mine Safety Association and MSHA sponsored the 2009 Start-Up Seminars in February that included the following presentations:

Safety Management for Supervisors by Mike Kremer;

Dust and Respirators, Steve Coti - MSHA;

Safe Lifting Procedures, Terry Weston and Tom Techar;

Miner and Management Rights and Responsibilities, George Schorr- MSHA

Inspectors Corner (MSHA Staff) to receive the latest information on fatalities, citation, and what to expect in 2009. Visit www.minnesotamine-safety.org.

The 14th Annual Winter Workshops organized by the **Great Lakes District Council** of the Holmes Safety Association was successful. There were 192 in total attendance with 56 attending Marquette; 44 at Gaylord; 42 at Dundee, and 40 attendees at the Grand Rapids workshop.

Our agenda included:

MSHA INSPECTION PRIORITIES, PROCEDURES, PENALTIES AND TOP CITATIONS.

MSHA field office supervisors updated us on inspection priorities, procedures and penalties. Top MSHA safety and health citations were discussed. Marquette Workshop – Paul Blome, MSHA Field Office Supervisor, Marquette, and Gaylord, Dundee and Grand Rapids Workshops -- Fred Tisdale - MSHA Field Office Supervisor, Lansing.

SUPERVISOR MSHA COMPLIANCE BRIEFING.

MSHA Small Mine Offices Persons (Dave Barr and Phil Morris) provided basic information needed by managers, supervisors, trainers and safety persons -- especially for those who are new to MSHA regulations. Holmes meeting presentations by these speakers have always provided attendees with a wealth of compliance information. Small Mine Office representatives have the distinction in Michigan as being truly: "from the government and here to help you".

CONVEYOR SAFETY.

Larry Goldbeck, conveyor expert from Martin Engineering and author of "Foundations – The Practical Resource for Total Dust and Material Control" made a presentation on "CONVEYOR SAFETY". Larry provided a wealth of practical information that companies need on how to keep conveyors dust-free and running correctly.

CONFINED SPACE HAZARDS, MONITORING AND CONTROL.

Jay Fitzgerald, founder of the Argus Group of Companies, provided basic information on the

“RECOGNITION OF CONFINED SPACES, HAZARDS, MONITORING AND CONTROL”. The Argus Group of companies provides comprehensive safety, industrial hygiene and environmental monitoring products and services.

ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION

This session gave all attendees an opportunity to discuss MSHA-compliance and other questions and concerns in an informal setting. Presenters were in attendance to answer questions and discuss attendee-expressed topics of concern. All attendees were welcome to participate in these discussions.

Update Submitted by David Carlson

The Northwest Ohio Council meeting on February 10th was hosted by Hall Industrial in Maumee, Ohio. There were 21 members in attendance. The members had an open discussion on Contractor Safety at their mine sites. Also, Professional Miners Certificates were given out to individual miners, as well (see photographs this page). The council meetings are open to mine operators, supervisors, employees and vendors of the mining community. Visit their website at www.holmes-safetynorthwestohio.org. For more information, please contact John Crawford of Stoneco, Inc. at 419-429-3462 or email jcrawford@shellyco.com. Update submitted by Jeff Hoblick

The Florida Holmes Safety Council met on February 23rd to kick off the 2009 Florida Mine Safety, Health and Environmental Conference held in Kissimmee, Florida. www.floridaminesafety.com

The East Texas-Louisiana Holmes Safety Council met on January 15th in Longview, Texas. There were 27 members in attendance. Fourteen different companies were represented. George Nadzadi an EFS Supervisor from MSHA's Dallas district office gave a presentation on Part 46 versus Part 48 regulations and training. The next meeting

will be April 16, 2009, at the Cotton Patch Café. If you are unable to attend in April, future meetings have been scheduled for July 16 and October 15 at the same location. Update submitted by Terry Davis from Sabine Mining Company.



From Martin Marietta Magnesia; Thomas Sherrard, Jim Hill and Tim Sherrard receive their professional miners certificates.



Pictured left to right are John Crawford, Shelly Materials, President Northwest Ohio council; Tim Sherrard, Martin Marietta Magnesia Special Professional Miner Certificate receiptant and Jeffrey Hoblick, MSHA/EFS Training Specialist and Ralph Wingert, Safety Director, Martin Marietta Magnesia Special

The 2009 Mine Trainers Association Conference

April 15, 16 & 17, 2009
Rend Lake Resort

This year's conference promises to be a good one, too! We're putting together an excellent panel of presenters with timely information from which all of us can benefit.

We've added a full day -- Wednesday -- to the traditional conference. MSHA will offer a one-day train-the-trainer program covering timely material we all need to know about Part 48 training and documentation. It's a worthwhile presentation you probably will find timely.

Wednesday evening, we'll have our usual hospitality suite with refreshments.

The conference will continue all day Thursday and conclude at noon on Friday.

A formal brochure with more details will follow in the weeks ahead, but I wanted to give you preliminary information in advance.

We hope to have the biggest and best conference in the MTA's long history. I hope you will mark out those dates, so you can join us.

There is a block of 30 rooms reserved for Wednesday and Thursday nights, but I'm assured that accommodations will be available for us who'll arrive Tuesday. The Resort will release the rooms 45 days before the conference, so I urge you to call and reserve a room soon: (800) 633-3341.

I look forward to seeing you in April.

John Howard, MTA Secretary
Workforce Education
Illinois Eastern Community Colleges
170 West Center Street
Girard, Illinois 62640
howardj@iecc.edu (alternate email)
(217) 627-3843 **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



2009 National Joseph A. Holmes Conference

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association, the MineSafety 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.

Websites of Interest:

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

Hilton Indianapolis – www.indianapolis.hilton.com

City of Indianapolis - <http://www.indygov.org/home.htm>

Indianapolis Convention & Visitor's Association - <http://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

Additional Registration Information to Follow!

For address changes, comments, suggestions and new subscription requests:

Contact:

Bob Rhea

Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Bulletin

Mailing List

MSHA-US DOL

1100 Wilson Blvd. Rm. 2147

Arlington, VA 22209-3939

Tel: 703/235-0249, Fax: 703.235.0011

E-mail: rhea.robert@dol.gov

Please address any comments to:

Belinda Browning

Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association Bulletin

DOL-MSHA

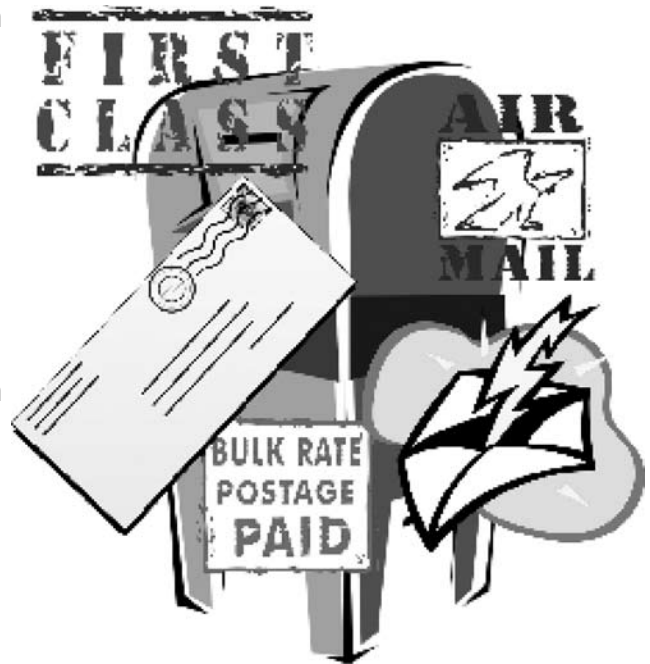
National Mine Health and Safety Academy

1301 Airport Road

Beaver, WV 25813-9426

Tel: 304/256-3326, Fax: 304/256-3461

E-mail: browning.belinda@dol.gov



Reminder: The District Council Safety Competition for 2008 is underway—please remember that if you are participating this year, you need to mail your quarterly report to:

Mine Safety & Health Administration

Educational Policy and Development

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