

MINING WEEK

June 5-10, 2006 40 Years of Mine Rescue Competitions!



The Workers' Compensation Board is proud to sponsor the 40th Annual Mine Rescue Competition occurring on Saturday, June 10th at Yellowknife City Hall.

Capping off five days of exciting Mining Week activities, the competition will test the mine rescue skills of three competing mines: BHP Ekati, Diavik Diamond Mine and Tahera's Jericho Diamond Mine.

This year three Surface teams and two Underground teams will go head to head with the goal to be crowned the overall champion.

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

Each mine in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut is invited to enter a team in an effort to win the Surface or Underground Commissioner's Trophy. The champions are then invited to compete in the Western Regional Mine Rescue Competition, which is held every two years (on the odd year) in Fernie B.C. This competition hosts winning teams from all provinces from Manitoba to British Columbia, the Territories, plus the North Western States (Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota).

MINE RESCUE COMPETITIONS

The Competition provides a means to evaluate and compare the effectiveness and quality of the mine rescue training program. If a mine was to have a major incident, teams from other mines and other provinces/territories are called in and would have to work together to accomplish the rescue. Competitions allow these teams to get together, work together and develop and understand how the other teams work.

Mine rescue is demanding and at times dangerous. Rescue team members are volunteer mine workers who have received extensive training. They must have an intimate knowledge of their equipment and have it ready at all times since their lives and the lives of others depend on it. They must know a great deal about the gases they might encounter when a fire is burning or after an explosion. They must know how to extinguish fires and master all the skills required to accomplish their rescue missions.

brought to you by:

Northwest Territories:
www.wcb.nt.ca 1.800.661.0792

Nunavut:
www.wcbnunavut.ca 1.877.404.4407



WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD
Northwest Territories and Nunavut

OBJECTIVES

Each team is led by a Captain whose primary concern is THE SAFETY OF THE TEAM.

The main objectives of mine rescue work are:

- To find and rescue trapped or injured persons
- Protect the property from further damage
- Rehabilitation of the affected area to render it safe again

TASKS

Prior to the start of the competition the teams are placed in a 'lock-up' where they remain until their turn to compete arrives. The teams are required to participate in a number of tasks to simulate the skills necessary to be a competent mine rescue team. This year we have three surface teams and two underground teams competing. They will compete up to eight of the following tasks:

Written Test

The teams will write an exam while in lock-up. The exam pertains to mine rescue procedures, respiratory protective equipment, fire fighting procedures and first aid.

Practical Bench

This task will involve specific skills to challenge the individual team members. It may involve respiratory protective equipment, gases and gas testing, rope rigging, and oxygen therapy.

Underground Bench

In this task, the team members will carefully check out their apparatus and equipment for proper functioning and air tightness. The team may also be asked questions pertaining to their equipment and/or mine rescue procedures.

First Aid

A 5 to 6-person team demonstrates its proficiency in first aid in an accident problem that may be found on a mining site. The problem is prepared and judged by C.E.R.T. NWT.

Fire

A 6-person team will be required to write an exam (in lock-up) and perform either a drill with fire hoses or extinguish various live fires.

Rope Rescue

A 6 man team will be required to perform a task that involves rope rescue apparatus such as lowering or lifting a person and/or rappelling.

Smoke

A 5 to 6-person team will don respiratory protective equipment and search and/or rescue victims in a smoke-filled room or simulated conditions.

Obstacle/Extrication

A 6-person team will compete in this task. The teams will be required to use rescue devices common to mine rescue such as pulley systems, come-along, air bags, etc. to extricate a person(s).

Underground Obstacle

A "mock mine" is constructed to represent the tunnels and workings of an underground mine. Judges set-up mine rescue problems that the team must solve. The problem may involve finding and rescuing trapped men, locating and extinguishing fires and rehabilitating the mine. A five person team wearing apparatus travels underground where they receive direction from a Coordinator/Director of Operations, who is a member of the team.

BREATHING APPARATUS

Underground teams use a four-hour oxygen re-breathing apparatus (commonly called a Draeger) that enables them to work in environments that are deficient in oxygen or contain toxic gases, and also allows for the extensive travel times that may be encountered underground. Surface teams usually use a compressed air breathing apparatus, similar to firefighters, which may last up to one hour.

The event is open to the public and admission is free. The competition starts at 9 am and continues to 4:30 pm, coinciding with the NWT Chamber of Mines' family barbeque.

The Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut sponsors the Annual Mine Rescue Competition as part of its mandate to promote safe work practices in all Northern workplaces.

