



"Working to make Indiana businesses clean and safe, and wages fair and competitive."

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nineteenth Annual Indiana Mine Rescue Association "Mine Rescue Meet" Held in Vincennes

Indianapolis, IN June 8, 2007—The Indiana Mine Rescue Association held the 19th annual Mine Rescue Meet on June 6th and 7th, 2007. Sixteen (16) mine rescue teams from Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky participated in the competition in Vincennes, Indiana. Three of the 16 teams represented Indiana. Teams that competed from Indiana included the Indiana State team of the Bureau of Mines, as well as teams from Gibson County Mine and Black Beauty Coal Mine.

The two-day event included not only a mine rescue drill, but also a bench and pre-shift individual competition. Highland Mine won the Governor's Trophy for the combination team as the Highland Mine competed and scored highest in all three events. Each team consisted of six members: a team captain, a map man, two gas men, a tail captain, and a briefing officer. The mock mine disaster is held on the surface. Teams are expected to survey the area, take gas readings, evaluate dangers, and locate trapped miners. All tasks must be carried out accurately and as quickly as possible. Scores are determined by how many discounts a team has as a result of errors in performing the exercise. Discounts are given for a multitude of reasons, including failure to sign and date inspected areas, failing to seal off areas, and entering into water above the knee.

Generally, teams compete in four events throughout the summer. The purpose of the competitions is to hone the skills of mine rescue teams so that when called into action, teams are ready and prepared for the demanding work that the job requires. "Mine rescue is the most demanding job you'll ever do, but by its very nature, it has to be," a quote often used by the Mining Community.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Deputy Commissioner—INSafe, Sean M. Keefer at (317) 232-2683.

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