

# Indiana Department of Labor, Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety 2023 Annual Coal Report

**Department of Labor  
Commissioner  
David Redden**



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"Indiana has a rich heritage of coal mining that dates back into the 1800s. The important work of mining this high-demand resource continues today. Nearly 1,400 underground Hoosier coal miners were responsible for mining nearly 14 million tons of clean coal in 2023. The coal mining industry continues to play a significant role in Indiana's economy, contributing to employment, revenue, and energy production. The partnership between mine owners, the Mine Safety Board, vendors, workers, and the Indiana Department of Labor has proven to be a successful and productive collaboration in helping foster a strong safety and health culture.

The Indiana Department of Labor, the Indiana Bureau of Mines, and the Indiana State Mining Board salute the men and women that perform the task of underground coal mining in Indiana and the mining companies that operate these mines. The Indiana Department of Labor is proud of the hard work and commitment by the Indiana underground coal mining community to ensure safe operations.

We at the Indiana Department of Labor look forward to continuing our role in this important work in 2024 and the years ahead."

- Indiana Department of Labor Commissioner David Redden

## About the Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety

The Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety, under the direction of The Indiana Department of Labor Commissioner David Redden, is staffed by the Deputy Commissioner, Chief Mine Inspector, and the Indiana State Mining Board. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor is required to administer the Mine Safety Fund, adopt rules for the prevention of injuries and illness, and forward the Annual Coal Report to the Indiana General Assembly. This document serves as the report to be submitted to the Indiana General Assembly by the Commissioner on behalf of the Indiana State Mining Board in accordance with Indiana Code IC 22-1-1-11(3). The Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety, located in Vincennes, works closely with miners, mine management, vendors, and the Mine Safety and Health Administration to help promote, educate, and administer work practices that help Hoosier miners stay safe and productive. The bureau promotes safety by performing frequent inspections of Indiana's underground coal mines, as well as provides training and testing of competency of Indiana's miners. Inspections of underground mines are performed by the Deputy Commissioner or the Chief Mine Inspector; both individuals are qualified mine foremen. All safety and health violations identified during inspection are to be immediately corrected and documented.

The bureau is also responsible for the training and maintaining the Indiana state mine rescue team and mine rescue station respectively. Active and abandoned underground coal mine maps and mining records are maintained and made available to the public on the Indiana Department of Natural Resources website at:

<https://indnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f30ca6a781cb4209b6e614789ca7185b>

# About the Mining Board

## The Indiana State Mining Board

Appointed by the Governor of Indiana, the Indiana State Mining Board administers quarterly certification examinations for Mine Foreman, Mine Examiner, Hoisting Engineer, and Shot Firer as well as issuing permits for inexperienced miners. The board is also responsible for revoking licenses and certifications if they deem an action is worthy of discipline. The board is also responsible for collecting and distributing information concerning the nature, causes, and prevention of mine accidents as well as the improvement of methods, conditions, equipment, and health standards in the mine. The Indiana State Mining Board also exercises its authority to require Indiana mines to provide adequate personnel for the Indiana Mine Rescue Teams. The board executes and administers the laws pertaining to underground coal mine operators, miners, and contractors.

### The State Mining Board is comprised of 5 members:

#### **Tim Emmons**

Tim has served 27 years as Indiana's State Mining Board's Chairman. With 46 years of coal mining experience, Tim is a certified MSHA trainer and qualified Mine Foreman.

#### **Chris Whitehead**

Chris is the General Manager of Basiloid Diversified Products. Serving the mining community for over 20 years, with his extensive knowledge of mine mapping and ventilation. Chris currently works as a mine consultant.

#### **Paul Lake**

Serving as the Indiana Mining Board's Public Representative since 2012, Paul is the Planning Director for the city of Huntingburg Indiana.

#### **Kevin Hills**

Kevin, a 40 veteran of the coal mine industry, was appointed to the Indiana Mining Board in 2021. Kevin serves as the Mining Program Director at Vincennes University.

#### **Brandon Flath**

Brandon, a 20-year veteran of the coal mining industry, was appointed to the Indiana Mining Board in 2021. He currently serves as the Safety Director of an Indiana coal mine.

The Indiana State Mining Board assembles quarterly to discuss and vote upon mining related topics. The topics include miner's safety and health, testing, mine law, certifications, funding, and Mine Rescue.

# Mine Rescue

## Mine Rescue Team and Station

The Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety, located on the Vincennes University campus, maintains a fully equipped mine rescue station. The mine rescue station is inspected twice per year by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration. Indiana also has a fully trained mine rescue team that is always on call. The mine rescue team is comprised of eight members. These team members are volunteers from Indiana underground coal mines.

Mine rescue team members are required to have 96 hours of training annually, consisting of rigorous testing of physical endurance, mental acuity, practical knowledge of mining practices, firefighting, first aid, and CPR. These skills are highlighted during mine rescue competitions where teams are evaluated on all aspects of mine rescue.

## 2023 Indiana State Mine Rescue Team Members

### **Sunrise Coal**

Joby Johnson- Team Trainer

Chad Smith

Mike Hersel

Derek Smith

### **Gibson County Coal**

Victor Banet

Zachary Winebarger

### **Peabody Midwest Mining**

Austin Conrad

### **Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety**

Kris Walters

# Certification Examinations

## Testing and Mine Certifications

Indiana's Deputy Commissioner and Chief Mine Inspector are each responsible for proctoring quarterly examinations for testing the competency of qualified mining applicants. Examinations are administered and graded by the Indiana State Mining Board. The board assesses each applicant in several different aspects of the mining industry. These aspects include, ventilation, toxic, noxious, and explosive gases, mine roof control, mining law, first aid, CPR, safe mining practices, and formulas for calculating air quantity and quality. Study materials for certification testing can be found here:

<https://www.in.gov/dol/bureau-of-mines/mining-board/>

## Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety Metrics

Key Performance Indicators for 2023	Total
Mine Inspections	84
Violations Written	76
Miner's Permits Issued	306
Miner's Licenses Issued	251
Mine Forman Certifications Issued	20
Mine Examiner Certifications Issued	2
Hoisting Engineer Certifications Issued	13

## Mine Specific Metrics

Coal Mine	Employees	Tons of Clean Coal	Labor Hours	Tons Per Man Hour
Sunrise Coal Oaktown Fuels	536	3,934,223	1,230,480	3.2
Sunrise Coal Oaktown Fuels	330	2,451,278	772,511	3.2
Gibson County Coal South Mine	370	5,281,234	970,504	5.4
Peabody Midwest Francisco Mine	224	2,025,562	599,032	3.4