



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

MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr., GOVERNOR
Lori A. Torres, Commissioner

402 West Washington St., Room W195
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2751

Phone: (317) 232-2655
Fax (317) 233-3790

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sean M. Keefer
Phone: (317) 232-2683

Indiana Department of Labor Releases Preliminary Report on Gibson County Mine Construction Accident.

Indianapolis, IN, August 14, 2007—The Indiana Bureau of Mines, a division of the Indiana Department of Labor, has released a preliminary report on its investigation of the construction accident at the Gibson County mine, where three men tragically lost their lives in a fatal fall when the bucket they were in upended as they were being lowered into an air shaft under construction.

The Indiana Bureau of Mines, headquartered in Vincennes, Indiana, inspects all Indiana underground coal mining operations and certifies specific mining occupations. The Bureau also maintains a mine rescue station, trains mine rescue teams, and collects and indexes mine maps.

The Indiana Mine Rescue Teams arrived on the scene in less than one hour from the time of the accident. Although the teams were not called upon to participate in the recovery efforts, the Indiana Bureau of Mine's Deputy Commissioner accompanied MSHA on the recovery of the victims.

The Indiana Bureau of Mines is working with the Federal Mining Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) who is the lead in the investigation into Friday's accident. MSHA issued what is known as a 103(k) Order which means that no work can be performed by the company at the job site until the order has been lifted.

The role of the Indiana Bureau of Mines from this point forward will be limited, as MSHA has the primary duty to investigate, determine the cause of the accident, ascertain whether there have been safety violations, and then issue the order and penalties. By statute, the Bureau of Indiana Mines conducts an investigation for the purpose of data collection only, and does not issue citations or fines.

The preliminary investigation lays out the facts of the case and a brief description of the events that occurred. A final report will be issued after MSHA completes its investigation. This final report by the Indiana Bureau of Mines will include causes, recommendations, and other pertinent information. A final report is not anticipated for several months.

The Indiana Department of Labor will continue to communicate any new information that can be shared as soon as it becomes available.

(cont.)



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PRELIMINARY ACCIDENT REPORT

1. Accident type: Fatal injury
2. Accident classification: Slip or Fall of Person
3. Date/Time of accident: 08/10/07 10:43 am
4. Mining Company Name: Gibson County Coal. LLC
5. Mine Name: Gibson Mine
6. Mine Location: CITY: Princeton COUNTY: Gibson STATE: Indiana
7. Primary mineral mined: Bituminous coal underground mining
8. Contractor Name: Frontier-Kemper Constructors, Inc.
9. Contractor Address: CITY: Evansville COUNTY: Vanderburg STATE: Indiana
10. Victims Information:
 1. **Name: Todd Richardson**
Age: 38 DOB: 04/15/1969
Job Title: Mining Operations Manager
Activity at time of accident: Touring Mine Shaft Construction
Contractor employee: Yes, Years of experience: 15
 2. **Name: Jarred Ashmore**
Age: 23 DOB 08/26/83
Job Title: Project Engineer
Activity at time of accident: Touring Mine Shaft Construction
Contractor employee: Yes, Years of experience: 1year 2 months
 3. **Name: Dan McFadden**
Age: 66 DOB: 09/03/1940
Job Title: Retiree, Years of experience: 30
Activity at time of accident: Touring Mine Shaft Construction

DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT: At approximately 10:43 am on August 10th, 2007, three persons were fatally injured at the Gibson County Coal, LLC, Gibson Mine shaft sinking project. Five independent contract employees were working in the shaft bottom area, but were not injured.

Two of the victims were management employees of the shaft sinking contractor, Frontier-Kemper Constructors, Inc. The third victim was identified as a retiree of the same independent contractor. The victims were being lowered into the shaft in a sinking or mucking bucket, when the bucket tipped , causing the victims to fall down the shaft. The shaft is approximately 575 feet in depth and has intersected the Springfield #5 coal seam, but has not yet been connected to the existing underground workings.

This report was prepared by the Indiana Department of Labor, Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety and with the coordinated efforts of MSHA and the State of Indiana.

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

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