



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**THE AMERICAN COAL COMPANY MINE RESCUE TEAM REPEATS  
AS CHAMPIONS IN R.E. JONES MINE RESCUE COMPETITION**

*Highly-decorated mine rescue team again demonstrates winning combination of  
knowledge and skill in emergency mine rescue*

(Galatia, IL – May 25, 2010) – For the second year in a row, the expert mine rescue team from The American Coal Company took first place at the Robert E. Jones Mine Rescue Competition. The American Coal Company is an independent operating subsidiary of Ohio-based Murray Energy Corporation.

The American Coal Company's mine rescue team – consisting of miners from both the New Era and New Future Mines – was one of 13 teams from Illinois and Indiana that participated in the May 11 contest on the campus of Rend Lake College in Ina, Illinois.

“We are extremely proud of The American Coal Company's mine rescue team for once again demonstrating they are true professionals and one of the best mine rescue teams in the industry,” said Rob Murray, vice president, business development and external affairs at Murray Energy Corporation. “Our mine rescue team motto is ‘Prevention and Preparation with Pride and Precision,’ and this championship mine rescue team is a shining example of that.”

The day-long competition, organized by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) District 8 office and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, allowed the federal and state mine inspectors who served as judges to evaluate participants' ability to assess hazards, solve problems and work as a team while carrying out an emergency rescue operation safely.

During the competition, The American Coal Company mine rescue team was given a scenario in which they were to rescue two miners trapped in a mine. While working to safely rescue the trapped miners, the team encountered multiple simulated challenges – including explosive gas, low oxygen, bad roof conditions and water infiltration – all of which were meant to replicate conditions that can occur in an actual mine emergency. The team performed their entire operation while wearing self-contained breathing apparatuses, successfully completing the rescue in one hour and seven minutes – a minute less than their winning time in 2009.

“Safety is the first priority in any mine and having a well-trained rescue team adds a level of safety and preparedness that benefits all of our miners,” said Joe Myers, American Coal Company safety compliance manager and rescue team captain, who has been involved with mine rescue operations for more than 25 years. “This is an all-volunteer team committed to being the first line of response in an actual emergency. It’s a life-saving commitment they take very seriously.”

Myers added that The American Coal Company – like all Murray Energy Corporation independent operating subsidiaries – has had trained mine rescue teams for years, long before such teams were required by mining regulators. Workers volunteer for mine rescue team duty and undergo highly specialized training in mine emergency and rescue operations. The team holds frequent practice sessions – to prepare for competitions, and more importantly, to be ready to respond in the event of an actual mine emergency.

In addition to Myers, The American Coal Company champion mine rescue team includes Marcus Tso, Bill Agin, Lennie Hanner, Scott Webb, Ross Stanley, John Roberts and Zack Schimpf. This also was the first mine rescue competition for two new members of The American Coal Company’s rescue team – Ryan Darnell and Curtis Eubanks – both of whom Myers praised for meeting the toughest challenges with the savvy of veteran mine rescue team members.

The American Coal Company’s mine rescue team is one of the most highly-decorated in the country. The team has won numerous competitions, including statewide contests in both Illinois and Kentucky.

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Champions again: The American Coal Company mine rescue team with the trophy for their first place finish in the Robert E. Jones Mine Rescue Competition; (from left) Zack Schimpf, Billy Agin, team captain Joe Myers (holding trophy), Marcus Tso, Lennie Hanner, Ryan Darnell, Curtis Eubanks, Scott Webb, John Roberts and Ross Stanley. This is the second year in a row The American Coal Company mine rescue team has won the RE Jones contest.