



MURRAY ENERGY CORPORATION MINES TAKE TOP TWO SPOTS IN STATE'S FIRST MINE RESCUE COMPETITION

Mine rescue teams – both Murray Energy Corp. subsidiaries – show winning combination of safety, knowledge and preparedness in emergency mine rescues

(ALLEDONIA, OH; Oct. 16, 2008) – The mine rescue team from The Ohio Valley Coal Company's (Ohio Valley) Powhatan No. 6 Mine took top honors in the first annual State of Ohio Mine Rescue Competition held on October 9 in Cadiz – edging out a team from American Energy Corporation's (American Energy) Century Mine. Both coal mining operations are independent operating subsidiaries of Cleveland-based Murray Energy Corporation.

The day-long competition, organized by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), allowed federal and state inspectors to evaluate Ohio mine rescue teams' ability to assess emergency situations and use problem-solving skills that could save lives during a mine emergency. Teams were assigned to handle a simulated emergency, such as a fire and poor quality or insufficient air. Eight teams from Ohio took part in the competition.

“In any mine, safety is our primary concern, so having a well-trained rescue team provides a level of preparedness and safety that benefits all of our miners,” said Kevin Hughes, Superintendent and Mine Manager of The Ohio Valley Coal Company in Alledonia. “We are extremely proud of our mine rescue team and support them in their dedication to emergency preparedness. The fact that Murray Energy's rescue teams placed first and second in the state competition exemplifies our commitment to mine safety,” he said.

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Hughes added that the Powhatan No. 6 Mine – like all mines operated by Murray Energy Corporation – have had trained mine rescue teams for years, long before such teams were required by mining regulators.

Workers at the mines volunteer for rescue team duty and hold frequent practice and training sessions – to prepare for competitions, and more importantly, to be ready to respond in the event of an actual mine emergency. All team members undergo specialized and highly technical training in mine emergency rescue operations.

The Ohio Valley champion mine rescue team includes Gary Garczyk, Captain; John Grear, Mark Richey, Michael Zaborek, Merle Huntsman, Lawrence Leonard and David Bartsch.

“These men see their participation on the mine rescue team as a badge of honor, and they are extremely dedicated and committed,” said Hughes. “There is a bond between miners, and this team is committed to being the first line of response to save their fellow miners in an actual emergency situation. It’s a commitment they take very seriously.”

ODNR partnered with the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Pennsylvania Bureau of Deep Mine Safety and West Virginia Office of Miners Health, Safety and Training to organize the competition. The Ohio Mine Safety Competition counts toward one of two federally required mine safety and rescue programs that miners must complete each year.

The Ohio Valley mine rescue team has competed in a total of five events this year, further exemplifying their and Murray Energy Corporation’s dedication to emergency preparedness and mine safety.

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