



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**KENAMERICAN RESOURCES TAKES TOP SPOT IN WESTERN  
KENTUCKY SAFETY DAYS PRE-SHIFT CONTEST**

*Win is another victory for Murray Energy Corporation, whose subsidiaries also  
have won mine rescue competitions in Illinois and Ohio*

(Central City, KY – June 29, 2009) A member of KenAmerican Resources' mine rescue team took first place in the pre-shift contest at the recent Western Kentucky Safety Days competition in Madisonville. KenAmerican Resources, Inc. is an independent operating subsidiary of Ohio-based Murray Energy Corporation.

Jeff Clark, a veteran coal miner at KenAmerican Resources' Paradise Mine with more than 20 years experience in mine safety and emergency rescue, added his Safety Days win to a list of honors that includes being the 2007 national pre-shift contest champion.

"Jeff is a true professional whose extensive knowledge of mine safety and emergency rescue is second to none," said Rob Murray, vice president of business development and external affairs at Murray Energy Corporation. "Safety is the top priority in any mine and we are very proud to employ miners who can not only demonstrate their commitment to safety in a contest, but who demonstrate it every day in the mine."

Western Kentucky Safety Days, a two-day safety competition organized by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) District 10 office and the Western Kentucky Mining Institute, allowed the federal and state mine inspectors who served as judges to evaluate participants' ability to assess hazards, solve problems and utilize best safety practices while carrying out a pre-shift inspection and emergency rescue operation.

During the pre-shift competition, contestants completed a simulated pre-shift mine inspection, assessing potential physical hazards, air quality and equipment to ensure the mine is safe for workers to enter, and recording their findings in a log book. Judges evaluated the thoroughness of the inspection and how well contestants documented their findings. Regulators require such pre-shift inspections to be performed prior to every shift at a coal mine, and inspections are done every eight hours at KenAmerican's Paradise Mine.

"The pre-shift competition is an important reminder that safety begins before miners even enter the mine and is an around-the-clock priority," Murray said. "Because safety is so important, we also have had emergency mine rescue teams at all of our mines for years, long before they were required by regulators."

Murray added that Clark is also captain of what is known as a composite mine rescue team that includes miners from KenAmerican Resources, Inc., as well as other mines in western Kentucky. The composite team serves as the on-call mine rescue team for all of the mines whose miners make up the team, and took second place in the Western Kentucky Safety Days mine rescue competition. John Tow is the other KenAmerican Resources employee on the composite rescue squad.

Because of their longevity, Murray Energy Corporation's mine rescue teams have developed substantial expertise and have won numerous other mine rescue competitions. Last fall, mine rescue teams from Murray Energy independent operating subsidiaries The Ohio Valley Coal Company and American Energy Corporation placed first and second, respectively, in the state of Ohio's first annual mine rescue competition. In May, the mine rescue team from Murray Energy subsidiary The American Coal Company took first place in the R.E. Jones Mine Rescue Contest in Ina, Illinois.

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Jeff Clark from KenAmerican Resources, Inc. Paradise Mine demonstrates his expertise in mine safety. Clark, the 2007 national pre-shift contest champion, took first place in the pre-shift contest at the recent Western Kentucky Safety Days competition in Madisonville.