



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**AMERICAN COAL COMPANY MINE RESCUE TEAM TAKES FIRST PLACE IN R.E. JONES MINE RESCUE COMPETITION**

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

(Galatia, IL – June 10, 2009) The expert mine rescue team from The American Coal Company has won yet another mine rescue contest, taking 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 12 teams from Illinois and Indiana that participated in the May 14 contest on the campus of Rend Lake College in Ina.

“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 rescue teams in the industry,” said Rob Murray, vice president of business development and external affairs for 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 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 smoke and fire – 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 eight minutes.

“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 director 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’s New Era and New Future Mines – 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 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, American Coal Company mine rescue team members who participated in the competition included Marcus Tso, Bill Agin, Mike Smith, Scott Webb and Ross Stanley. This also was the first mine rescue competition for two new members of The American Coal Company’s rescue team – John Roberts and Zack Schimpf – 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 state-wide 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) Mike Smith, award presenter Jim Atterberry, Billy Agin, Scott Webb, team captain Joe Myers (holding trophy), Marcus Tso, Ross Stanley, Zack Schimpf and John Roberts.