



U. S. Department of Labor MSHA's Accident Prevention Safety Idea

SEEKING SHELTER



If you are working in a mine that just experienced an emergency and you try but are unable to escape from the mine, **YOU MUST SEEK SHELTER**. During your Emergency Evacuation training, you are taught to seek shelter inside of refuge alternatives and await rescue because **HELP IS ON THE WAY**. You are trained in the deployment and operation of the refuges in your mine. The refuge alternative is provided with enough breathable air, food, and water to sustain you for 96 hours. You should consider bringing the following additional items when you

enter the refuge alternative:

- **Spare SCSR's:** The SCSR's may be needed if it becomes necessary to leave the safety of the refuge alternative.
- **Spare Gas Detectors:** The refuge alternative is equipped with instruments to monitor the air inside and outside of the shelter. Extra detectors provide added monitoring especially when monitoring the purging of the air-lock during deployment and initial entry.
- **Spare Cap Lights:** Extra lights provide additional lights inside the unit.
- **Medications:** Each miner should bring enough medication, such as insulin, to work each day to last for at least 96 hours.

Other considerations but not necessary:

- **Drinking Water:** The refuge alternative is stocked with enough water for 96 hours for all occupants.
- **Dinner Buckets:** After removing medications and other personnel items, dinner buckets may not be necessary since the refuge alternative is supplied with enough food necessary for all occupants.
- **Tools:** The refuge alternative is provided with the tools necessary to make any repairs to the unit. Tools hanging from belts have caused damage to the tent when miners entered the structure. Miners should remove their mine belts before entering the refuge alternative.

If you have a tip you would like to pass on, you can e-mail it
to zz-MSHA-MinersTips@dol.gov.

If your tip is selected, you will receive credit in this space.