

News Release



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MSHA awards half-million dollars in mine safety grants *Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grants target mine emergency training*

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) announced seven recipients of a total of \$500,000 in grant funds for education and training at underground coal mines. MSHA established the competitive grants program through a provision in the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006.

“These grants will go a long way toward providing mine emergency training for coal miners,” said Richard E. Stickler, assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. “The program is a fitting tribute to the miners lost at both the Sago and Jim Walter #5 mines.”

Twelve applications were submitted. The selected grantees are as follows:

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>	<u>Type of Program</u>
• College of Eastern Utah	\$54,000	Mine Emergency Training
• Colorado Department of Reclamation, Mining & Safety	\$53,000	Training Materials for Mine Emergencies
• Pennsylvania State University	\$135,000	Mine Emergency Training
• United Mine Workers of America Career Center	\$73,000	Mine Emergency Training
• Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy	\$85,000	Mine Emergency Training
• Vincennes University (Indiana)	\$50,000	Mine Emergency Training
• West Virginia Miners Health Safety & Training	\$50,000	Training Materials for Mine Emergencies

Applicants for the Brookwood-Sago grants must be states or nonprofit entities. MSHA may award as many as 10 separate grants a minimum of \$50,000 each with a 12-month period of performance. These grants will be made on an annual, competitive basis to provide education and training for employers and miners, with a special emphasis on smaller mines.

In 2001, 13 men died in two explosions at the Jim Walter Resources #5 mine in Brookwood, Ala. Another explosion at the Sago Mine in Buchannon, W.Va., claimed 12 lives in early 2006.

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