



Mine Rescue Questions and Answers from the Rules Interpretation Meeting

Rule 1

1. Can you compare team maps verbally after the last vent change?
 - A. Yes.

2. Can the briefing officer's map and map man be compared if not laid back to back (side by side) after last ventilation?
 - A. No

3. Can team members review briefing officer's map after final ventilation as long as they are not holding the map man's map and it is not laid side by side?
 - A. No.

4. Comparison of maps at end of problem (final ventilation). Rule says 'side-by-side". If map man stands behind briefing officer and directs briefing officer where objects are located, is this considered comparing maps if at end of problem?
 - A. Yes.

5. Can tail captain compare maps with briefing officer after final ventilation if tail captain's map is not considered team map?
 - A. No. Rule 1; General

6. If no ventilation is required by problem design, can teams compare maps at the end?
 - A. No.

7. If team wants to drop a temporary stopping in FAB before stopping clock, can the maps be compared?
 - A. Not unless it is required by the problem.

8. If you do not lay side by side, can team discuss maps after final ventilation change?

A. Yes.

9. If the map man holds his map and looks at briefing officer's map at FAB after final ventilation, is that going to be considered as comparing maps since the two are not laid side by side?

A. Yes.

10. If the tail captain does a map of the field, can it be used to check the briefing officer's map after final ventilation?

A. No.

11. Will it be discounted if laid side by side since it's the tail captain's map and not the "team map"?

A. Yes

12. Can briefing officer's map and the captain's map be compared after final ventilation?

A. No visual comparison after the final ventilation.

13. If you compare maps, does it have to be done while the team is in by the fresh airbase, or can the map man be in the fresh air base with the team but be one or two headings away from the briefing officer.

A. Yes.

14. How can teams be responsible for lifeline if they only have 7 members?

A. One person will be provided. If only 7 members do what you have to do to work problems.

15. Comparing maps after final ventilation doesn't say side by side. Does it mean comparing at all?
- A. If person is close to briefing officer and verbally instructing the placement of card / ventilation control, they are comparing.
16. What is the final ventilation? Team exits mine, compares maps, then removes stopping in FAB. Is this the final ventilation?
- A. No

Rule 4

17. Exhaust fan. Only air flow indicated is across FAB. Is there any air flow in # 1 - 2 -3 entries? Even though no air flow is indicated in the entries.
- A. There will be no airflow in Entries 1-2-3. Miscellaneous Rule 4.

Rule 5

18. Rule A.5.B. The team is not responsible for locating and mapping objects / conditions that are initially found in the FAB. Must the team map then show conditions that are left at the FAB like a team built stoppings (up or down)? What if the team builds a stopping in the FAB?
- A. Yes, must be mapped.
19. How do we relocate ignition source on briefing officer map? Do we put X write out phone where we moved it to or just note relocated?
- A. X and describe.
20. Mapping. If a patient is found inside an RA, explain precisely how this should be mapped?
- A. Team members will not enter an RA. The proper symbol for person must be shown within six feet, outside of the RA door.

Rule 5k

21. According to last year's rules (2009), ignition sources relocated had to be shown on team map. Is this still the case or does it only have to be shown on briefing officer's map?
- A. Rule 5 K and Rule 6

Rule 6

22. Briefing officer didn't ever have to show barricades on his map or initial stopping found on advancement?
- A. Still don't. Intact ventilation structures left in mine must be shown.
23. Does a team have to use a lifeline going underground?
- A. No, if using radio.
24. Rule 6, Page 12: "relocation of ignition sources". The final location only will be on the map...is that correct?
- A. Yes, only on the briefing officer's map. Rule six requires ignition sources as found in the mine and ignition sources that are left in the mine be on the briefing officer's map.
25. Briefing Officer's Map, Rule 6. What is meant by orientation?
- A. The way the placard is placed on field.
26. On the briefing officer's map, would stoppings that were built then removed need to be labeled "removed" or could they be erased?
- A. They do not have to be shown on map. Smoke and gases cleared / removed must be noted.
27. Does the briefing officer have to use the map symbol legend used by the map man?
- A. Yes

28. Rule A 6. "objects / conditions as found in the mine" and "objects / conditions left in the mine", does this mean changes in the FAB are not required to be mapped on the briefing officer's map?
- A. Must map what is required in Rule 6.
29. Motorola HT-1000 Radios will not program for channels 6 and 10 on the MSHA frequencies list. The Kenwoods will program 6 and 10. Can the HT-1000's still be used with 10 channels?
- A. Rules state that 12 channels must be programmed.
30. Can we use regular radios for contest work only? The cost of MSHA approved radios is very high and if teams went to actual emergency they would use the radio communication in use at that mine or bring MSHA approved radios.
- A. Radios must be MSHA approved.
31. Will superintendent or designated person monitor radio full time or intermittently?
- A. Full time.
32. If a team already has radios that do not have twelve frequencies (say 7), are they forced to buy new ones to meet the twelve frequencies?
(Discourages the use of radios)
- A. The rule requires 12 frequencies

Rule 7

33. All pillar blocks will be equal size. Can the blocks be offset creating staggered intersections?
- A. No staggered.

Rule 12

34. If captain asked live person if he is okay, is he tied to him to complete assessment?
- A. No.
35. Rule 12. The rule states "However, only one team member starting the assessment of a live person will continue and complete the assessment". With this in the rule, why would the team not be discounted if the captain asks a patient "Are you okay?" and then hands off the patient to someone else to complete assessment? The Chief Judge has stated that they will not be discounted. If this is the case, the rule should be adjusted to reflect that statement.
- A. If the patient is conscious, the captain asking "Are you alright?" will suffice for the assessment under the rule. If the patient is unconscious and the captain asks, "Are you alright?" and then hands the patient off to a team member, the other team member must ask again to continue assessment. The team member must ask 1.) Patient, "Are you okay" or "Are you alright?" 2.) Check for breathing (Look, listen and feel for breathing 3-5 seconds), verbalizing assessment. 3.) Check for presence of carotid pulse (5-10 seconds) verbalizing assessment.
36. Person found under unsafe roof. Post, do you do patient assessment in questionable roof or move him? Does captain have to do patient assessment in this case?
- A. Another person can conduct the assessment. Also see answer 39.
37. B Card. Rule 12. Assessing a live conscious person, does the patient have to respond back, if not will the team be discounted?
- A. Patient does not have to respond.
38. Can both breathing and pulse check be performed at the same time? Example: Look, Listen and Feel for breathing, check for pulse. Count 3-5 seconds, breathing complete. Count on to 10 seconds, pulse complete.
- A. No.

39. If captain timbers into unsafe roof to patient, must he do the initial assessment or can person be removed first and then turned over to another team member?
- A. If the captain sets post into unsafe roof, after the posts are set, the area is safe and the captain can do the initial or hand off patient to another team member.
40. After the team posts to a person in unsafe roof and the captain touches, can the person be removed from the unsafe roof area prior to assessment start?
- A. If the captain sets post, the area is then safe and the captain can do the initial or hand off to another team member.
41. Will team be discounted if assessment takes longer than 15 seconds?
- A. No. There is a minimum, but not a maximum.
42. What if the placard says "missing person"; will you assess and then be informed whether the person is alive or not?
- A. Only live persons must be assessed. Placard will let you know the condition of the patient.
43. Assessing live person. Should be 4 steps: 1) Ask if okay/alright. 2) Open airway. 3) Look, listen and feel for breath. 4) Check pulse.
- A. Rules do not require team to open airway this year.
44. On a conscious patient, are we required to check breathing and a pulse? If yes, why?
- A. No.

45. B Card. Rule 12. Initial Assessment. When the captain makes contact with a person, is this considered as the captain starting the assessment or after the captain makes contact can one of the other team members do the assessment as long as the captain does not ask, are you okay?

A. Yes

46. Do you have to access the patient if there is a body card?

A. Rule states live persons.

Rule 17

47. If you don't arrange standard lifeline signals and you lose communication, how do you get outside without violating rules?

A. There is a provision in Rule 6, Rules Governing 2010 Mine Rescue Contests, for carrying additional radios, two, while the team is in by the Fresh-Air Base. If you do not have additional wireless communication devices or you have not previously arranged the lifeline signals, a discount will be assessed.

48. Will there be a discount?

A. Yes, if no means of communication have been provided.

45. Communication and Signaling. Rule 20, 21 and 22. If a team is using a wireless system, they don't have to stretch a lifeline from FAB into the mine as they explore?

A. They do not.

Rule 18

49. Confused about lifeline/link line. Teams using radios, do they have to have a lifeline/link line from the FAB?

A. Link line. Only in smoke, lifeline

50. Can team captain lead in a retreat mode with lifeline?
- A. Yes.
51. Page 17 Captain leading. Some teams have allowed the captain to lead the team when in a retreating mode. If this is acceptable, who does the calling of signals (retreat, etc.)?
- A. No. 5 man signals with briefing officer and briefing officer must give a return signal.

Rule 20

52. Can we cut lifeline after extending through the smoke filled area and leave it tied in place to use at a later time, when using radios?
- A. Yes
53. For teams using radios, can the alternates tend the lifeline when attached to the rib to travel into smoke? Inby the FAB?
- A. They may if needed and they are not being used as patients.
54. How will the lifeline reel (used in smoke) (with wireless communication) be attached to the tail captain?
- A. Lifeline used in smoke will be attached to tie off points. Must have hold of it.
55. Teams using lifeline-wired communication, do teams have to attach it at the outby end of smoke or is it okay just being attached at FAB?
- A. Yes, either one is okay.

Rule 22

56. Is travel defined as when a team is retreating or advancing? If so, then when at a team stop the team is not traveling, so does that mean, the way the rule is written and reads, individuals can work in smoke as long as the team is not "traveling"? Where is this prevented by the rule? This is assuming they are attached to the link line, but not using a rope, wire or cable?
- A. Rule 22.
57. Can team, at a team stop, build here if attached to link line without also using a rope "lifeline"?
- A. Yes
58. Rule 1st Sentence. In smoke - 1 man not on lifeline - 2 points, 2 men off lifeline - 4 points.
- A. Correct.
59. Captain puts hand in smoke off lifeline "entire team is in smoke, 10-point discount?
- A. "Only" 2 points per person.

Rule 24

60. Based on this would this be a quitter? Would the 10ppm CO be a separation from the 11ppm CO or if the explosive mixture was between #2 and #3, would it be a separation?
- A. This is still a withdrawal. The 10ppm with the explosive mixture does not negate the evidence of a fire. The 11ppm is evidence of a fire, and the fire would be the possible ignition source (not the 11ppm CO). The team would be endangered if they continued to explore.

Rule 25

61. Improper procedure when testing with gas detectors, testers and indicators. Must each test be done independently?
- A. Yes, each test must be verbally identified and conducted as stated in the rule.

Rule 27

62. If a patient can exit an RA once it has been ventilated, doesn't the captain have to D & I the location of the missing person, or can it be done at the point he meets the patient?
- A. D & I outside. Within six feet of the RA door
63. Date and Initials are not required at ventilation controls completely destroyed. What if the ventilation control is only partially destroyed?
- A. Requires D & I.
64. 'D' mentions "If a stopping has a hole in it, a gas test is not required prior to entry." Under Rule 27, would this stopping need date and initials?
- A. Yes, it is not completely destroyed.

Rule 30b

65. Statement of Fact #82 says teams cannot travel through water over waist deep. This conflicts with rules. Why?
- A. Statement of Facts # 82 has been changed.

Rule 31b

66. Can explosive mixture be ventilated over radio held by team member inside mine?
- A. Yes
67. Can explosive mixture be ventilated over extra batteries?
- A. No.
68. Rule 6. The Chief Judge stated that extra batteries for the radios could not be taken in by the FAB. Why? The rules do not prevent a team from doing so.
- A. Batteries are considered an integral component and approved as such. Must be attached to radio and be permissible. Batteries not attached can be taken underground, but will be discounted under Rule 31 if exposed to explosive mixtures.
69. Since batteries cannot be both at the FAB and vent explosive mixture over, if a team member's radio (in by FAB) fails and battery pops off in an area of explosive mixture, would team be discounted for an ignition source in explosive mixture? Would not matter if wireless radio was on or off.
- A. Yes, it would be discounted.
70. Discuss ventilating over radio battery.
- A. Batteries outside radios are not approved and are ignition sources – Discount under Rule 31.
71. If you have wireless you can retreat out any direction?
- A. Yes, retreat or advance.

72. Rule 31 D. Do radio batteries need to be included here?
- A. No. Suggestion, Rule 31d states cap lamp batteries are the only batteries that are not an ignition source, however for this year's contests radios with batteries installed will not be an ignition source.

Rule 35

73. Is a gas check required upon entering an RA air lock?
- A. No, don't enter.
74. Refuge alternatives are required to be mapped by the mine operator. Will they be on the problem map?
- A. No.
75. If a gas extends beyond the refuge alternative into a crosscut, does the team ventilate the full extent of the gas or just to the door of the refuge alternative?
- A. Cannot build to clear; must be airtight. Separation must be already there.
76. Refuge Alternative – once ventilated (and patient is known inside), does team just “instruct” patient to open door and come out or will team “open” the door and simulate retrieving the patient to remove him/her to fresh air base?
- A. Captain should open the door.

Rule 42

77. What constitutes delay?
- A. Defined by rule 42.

Rule 42b

78. If at a team stop you find unconscious person and you are putting him on apparatus, the captain is not done doing work and patient is ready to go. Is this a delay or can captain finish work, or if you only put patient on stretcher?

A. The team can do any function just as at a normal team stop, with the exceptions as listed.

79. If the team rescues a patient from behind a barricade and finds timbers can they recover a patient from unsafe roof if it requires advancing to an area that has already been explored? Would this delay the first patient recovered?

This question has a two part answer as two questions were asked.

A1. No, answer to first question

A2. Yes, answer to second question.

80. If a "missing person" is in unsafe roof and the team timbers to the missing person, when will the card be turned over to unconscious live person or body?

A. When the captain touches the placard the placard can be turned over, and it will be whatever the problem designer wants it to be.

81. Can captain and gas man continue to explore while the patient assessment is being made?

A. Yes.

82. What can the captain do when he turns a patient over to another team member for the initial assessment? And please explain multiple patients.

A. Rule 42B addresses this.

Rule 42C

83. If a team elects not to timber into an unsafe area to a missing person while at a stop after ventilating a barricade and breaching, find timbers, is team discounted for delay for persons in unsafe roof?

A. No.

84. Can a second patient be recovered from unsafe roof if the team is not required to advance to a previously explored area?

A. Yes.

Rule 45

85. Is the definition of opening in Rule 45 the same definition of opening in Rule 4?

A. No. In Rule 4, an opening is where air enters the mine or FAB. In Rule 45, opening is definition for exploration. In Rule 4, opening is definition for ventilation.

Rule 45f

87. If the written instructions say "explore entire mine", timbers and/or a pump are available for unsafe roof or where water over knee deep or roofed, is it necessary to explore according to written instructions, although not required by the rules?

A. If for the purpose of the problem, otherwise retreat.

88. If the problem states "explore the entire mine if possible". and you have accounted for everyone, you would not have to pump water or set timbers. Rule states that the only time to set timbers or pump water is when people are missing orienting over it. Please clear this up with what you said today.

A. If the problem states to explore mine and account for all missing, the other areas of unsupported roof won't require travel. However, if the problem or statement instructs the team to "explore the mine and leave all areas safe to travel", it would require teams to install support or pump water.

89. Rule 45, Paragraph F, states that inaccessible areas need not be explored unless they are unaccounted person or... The second paragraph of Rule F states that if teams are to pump or set timbers to explore for unaccounted for miners. Please explain.
- A. The second paragraph of Rule 45F describes what the team must do if persons are still missing.
90. If the problem says 'explore the mine', what does that mean?
- A. Exploring the mine as per the written statement needs to be pertinent for the working of the problem.

Rule 46

91. The word "completely" destroyed is used in rule 46. What if the overcast is only partially destroyed?
- A. Can't use overcast material if partially destroyed.