

RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS

- Q: Rule 1 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - Do you have to substitute with patient or can you swap with BO?
- A: If an emergency has occurred, the team may substitute whichever team member they choose; if by problem design, by rule, only the patient or alternate can be used for substitution.
- Q: Rule 1 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - If the problem design does not want the briefing officer isolated, do the rules support this?
- A: No. The briefing officer must be isolated as per the rules after the team reaches the first stop underground that requires an apparatus check.
- Q: Rule 1 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - If a problem design requires the alternate to replace a team member, does the team get to choose what position to put the alternate in?
- A: Must comply with problem design.
- Q: Rule 1 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - Briefing officer's communication with teams.
- A: Only by communication system, or verbally if standard lifeline signals are used, once team has reached the first intersection in by FAB. BO can communicate with team in FAB until team enters mine. BO must then be isolated from the team (physically), once the team reaches the first intersection, and remain isolated until the clock is stopped. Exceptions apply, concerning verbal communication, if lifeline and standard signals are being used.
- Q: Rule 1 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - When does BO have to stop communicating with team?
- A: When clock is stopped.
- Q: Rule 1 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) and Rule 36 (B Card) - As was stated, if the BO is in an isolated area, or airtight structure, irrespirable atmosphere may be ventilated past his designated area. However, is this not contrary to Rule 36 and the written interpretation?
- A: The rule states, "The atmosphere for the briefing officer shall remain respirable. This cannot be achieved by the use of an apparatus. ___10
The briefing officer cannot be relocated at the fresh-air base to allow irrespirable air to flow across his designated location." The intent of this rule was to prevent teams from moving the BO from one area to another, to allow an irrespirable atmosphere to flow across his designated location. This rule does not conflict if the briefing office is placed inside an enclosure that is deemed to be airtight, by problem design, or placard.

Q: Rule 1 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - Will the problem have to say the BO is in an airtight area?

A: For the briefing officer to be in an area considered to be airtight, there must be a placard stating such or written instructions indicating the enclosure is considered airtight when the entrance (door) is closed.

Q: If BO is inside airtight area can irrespirable gas be taken over the area?

A: Yes, as long as there is no opening into the BO location where irrespirable atmosphere could enter.

Q: Rule 1 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - If the BO is in an airtight area at start of problem can BO come out to start pump or do other work?

A: If the briefing officer's location allows access into the FAB, the BO can do work as long as the team is in by the FAB.

Q: Rule 1 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - Can the team communicate with the BO at the FAB via radios prior to stopping the clock?

A: Yes

Q: Rule 2 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - Can BO still put up or take down ventilation structures and/or energize/deenergize electrical circuits, pumps, etc.?

A: Yes, as long as the team is in by the FAB.

Q: Rule 2 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - The Biopak harness is designed to be a belt. Would ID tag attached to harness be correct also?

A: Yes.

Q: Rule 2 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - Is a cap light the same as a cap lamp?

A: Do NOT use cap lights in problems this year as it could confuse teams about whether or not it is permissible or an ignition source.

Q: Rule 4 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - If a team doesn't turn off their gas meters, and during the problem it alarms or the battery runs out. Is this a discount?

A: The rules do not require the detectors to remain turned "on" while working the problem.

Q: Rule 6 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - Can radio frequencies provided be used to practice with?

A: Yes.

Q: Rule 6 () - Can team use both radios and sound powered communication systems during working of the problem?

A: Yes. Teams should be careful to check communications of both systems before entering the mine. Could be conflict with Rule 18 (B Card), if teams changes communication systems in the mine. Rule states, "Constant communication shall be maintained with the briefing officer unless a malfunction occurs." If communication system is changed-out inside the mine, communication was not constant. Definition for "constant" - (Encarta Dictionary): "not changing or varying, something unchanging."

Q: Rule 6 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - Can team use a "blaster's tape" for a lifeline?

A: Yes. There are no exclusions in the Rules. The rule states, "A lifeline will still be required for working of the problem. This can be achieved through the use of a communication reel or rope, wire or cable which has sufficient tensile strength to be used as a manual communication system."

However, if the material utilized for a lifeline fails when team is in smoke there will be a discount for each team member. Rule 22 (B Card) "In smoke, each team member not having hold of lifeline/link line, or not being firmly attached to his/her person, each infraction ___2"

Q: Rule 6 (RULES GOVERNING 2012 MINE RESCUE CONTESTS) - How many radio frequencies do we need to have programmed into our radios?

Our radios have 8 channels to choose from, do we need to buy radios with 16 channels to choose from?

A: Answer to be added at a later date.

FRESH-AIR BASE PROCEDURES

- Q: Rule 1 (FAB Procedures) - Will the patient and alternates be allowed to help with lifeline and stretchers during the 7-minute in the FAB?
- A: Yes, the rule states, " Teams will be allowed to position (this means unloading stretcher), their equipment and lay out lifeline across the fresh-air base during this seven minute time limit." The patient and alternates are part of the team.
- Q: Rule 1 (FAB Procedures) - Can the briefing officer map the openings?
- A: Yes. The rule states, " **A maximum of seven minutes will be allowed for discussion and preparation after the team receives the written statement. Teams will be allowed to position (this means unloading stretcher), their equipment and lay out lifeline across the fresh-air base during this seven minute time limit.**"
The BO is a team member.
- Q: Rule 1 (FAB Procedures) - Will team be told which judge will take lifeline signals from the No. 5 person?
- A: Yes, during introduction.
- Q: **Rule 1 (FAB Procedures)** - Can regulators and check curtains be used in contests this year?
- A. No.
- Q: **Rule 1 (FAB Procedures)** - During the first 7 minutes, can the alternate(s) and patient help set everything out?
- A. Yes.
- Q: **Rule 1 (FAB Procedures)** - When does the seven minutes start? When the first team member enters the field or the last?
- A. The seven minutes begins when the person in charge of the fresh air base introduces himself/herself to the captain and briefing officer and hands them the statement.
- Q: **Rule 1 (FAB Procedures)** - If the judge has to start the team clock due to the 7-minute rule, does the judge hand the maps/problem immediately to the team?
- A. Yes, as soon as the clock starts, the judge should hand the maps/problem to the team.

MISCELLANEOUS

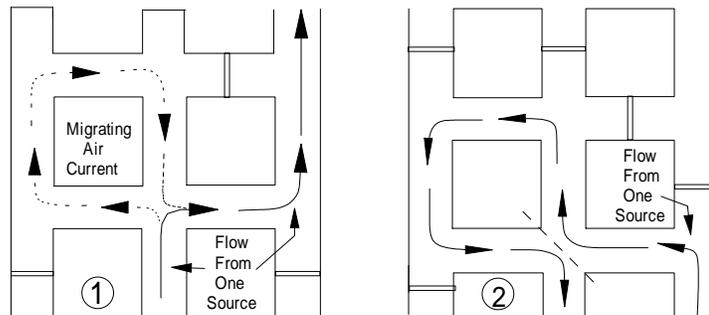
Q: Rule 3 (Miscellaneous) - Solid Line Map - How could you have an "open borehole"?

A: The rule states, "A solid line means there will be no openings from above, below or on the same plane that are not shown on the map." There may be openings, but they will be shown on the solid line map.

Q: Rule 4 (Miscellaneous) - Are these airflows possible?

A: Drawing 1: Yes, air will migrate around the block, both ways, to where it return to the total current flow. ("Any air movement will move irrespirable and/or explosive gases across an ignition source and/or unexplored area, if not blocked.")

Drawing 2: No, Without any controls the total current would not flow around the block, however, it would migrate as in Drawing 1.; Yes, if a control is in place, diagonal dotted line (as shown), across the intersection. ("Ventilation changes made by the team will reflect general ventilation principles, to direct airflow where it is needed, or block the airflow where it would create a violation of the rules.")

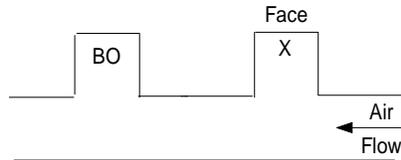


Q: Rule 4 (Miscellaneous) - If you say don't use check curtains or regulators in contests, how do we train them to do it in a real event?

A: There are differences between what is considered contest rules and what may actually be used in real event. It is the trainer's experience and knowledge that is used to make decisions concerning what the difference is and how the team should be trained.

Q: Rule 4 (Miscellaneous) - Will the air clear the face or will the air go into the BO? (see drawing)

A: No. There are no ventilation controls that would direct the air into the closed-end places.



Q: Rule 4 (Miscellaneous) - If you have an open borehole and you have an explosive mixture or irrespirable contents in that area, if not blocked can that contaminant be moved by migration? I know you can't ventilate with a borehole.

A: For contest work, ventilation cannot move unless there is something that moves it, and will not course through workings unless it is directed, and will not stop unless it is blocked. Stating the borehole cannot be used for ventilation, a migration will not occur unless there is an unblocked path to a source.

INTERPRETATIONS OF A CARDS

Q: Rule 1 (A Card) - In order to promote studying, may a small contest elect to have all members take the written exam?

A: No, the rules require the test to be taken by one person and graded.

Q: Rule 1 (A Card) - When will the 7-minute time clock actually be started?

A: Immediately following introductions of person in charge of FAB and Captain and BO.

Q: Rule 2 (A Card) - Is tag attached to apparatus same as belt for working 5 members?

A: Yes, but team should be careful, if apparatus are changed the tag would need to be changed.

Q: Rule 3 (A Card) - If the Captain fails to start the timing device and the timekeeper's clock malfunctions during the problem, how will the working time for the team be determined?

A: The timing device will need to be started by a judge/timekeeper at the same time as the stopwatch, to assure a backup device is maintained.

Q: **Rule 3 (A Card)** - Is there a way to protest overtime discounts since these are added after the team has left appeals?

A: No. Teams can protest working time, but not the overtime discounts.

Q: Rule 3 (A Card) - If I understand, it is either A or B, not discounted for both?

A: Team will be discounted only for A or B, not both.

Q: Rule 3 (2) - (A Card) - If the problem statement reads: "Bring all survivors to the FAB" and "Complete the problem within 90 minutes; will teams be discounted twice for failure to follow written instructions, and an additional 15-points for not completing the problem?

A: The team will be discounts under Rule 33 for failure to bring any live persons to the surface, discounts assessed for each person. The team will also be discounted 15-points for failure to complete problem within time limit, and; team will be discounted under Rule 51 for not following written instructions. Discounts for items not mapped will also be added.

Q: Rule 3 (A Card) - When the team doesn't finish the problem in the time limit they are docked for what was not mapped. Do they get discounted for the team map and the BO map?

A: Yes, the map discounts are cumulative.

Q: Rule 5 and Rule 6 (A Card) - How are teams required to map brattice cloth used to extend line curtain?

A: Shown as a temporary stopping with a line curtain attached. This would only be required where it may be found, or left in the mine. Not required if built, then tore down.

Q: **Rule 5 (A card)** - If there is a check curtain on the field, what will it be mapped as?

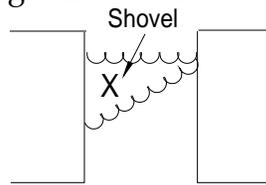
A: Check curtains are NOT to be used this year.

Q: Rule 5 (A card) and Rule 35 (B Card) - Would the second (inside) door of the RA be required to be mapped?

A: No, nothing required to be mapped inside RA except persons and bodies.

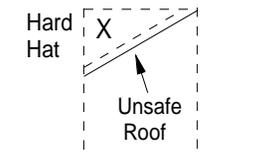
Q: Rule 5 (A Card) - Should this be mapped (see illustration)?

A: Yes, if you can travel through the water.



Q: Rule 5 D (A Card) - Dotted line map, do not know block size. Should this be mapped?

A: **Yes, see drawing. The rule states,** "D. Objects/conditions located in areas of elongated unsafe roof, unsafe rib, and areas where unsafe roof extends diagonally from rib to rib must be mapped if passed by the team."



Q: Rule 5 E (A Card) - What is the symbol for completely destroyed stopping, overcast, etc.?

A: Must use symbol for object that is shown in legend and write out condition that is noted on placard.

Q: Rule 5 E (A Card) - If the team moves an ignition source, such as a phone, how is it mapped?

A: Mapped with an 'X' at the new location, with the description 'moved' or "relocated", with a line drawn from the original location to the new location. The rule states, "Objects/conditions not covered by the legend will be written in by the team and the location of the object/condition indicated by the symbol "X". The team may place any additional information on the mine map concerning objects/conditions found in the mine if it does not adversely affect the legibility of the items/conditions required to be mapped."

Q: Rule 5 E (A Card) - Map Legend - Doors - explanation indicates "Letters to indicate doors or barricades can be parallel or perpendicular to or on the stopping, or adjacent to the structure as shown." Does the 6-foot tolerance apply?

A: Yes.

Q: Rule 5 E (A Card) - Symbol for RA. "The symbol "RA" may be located outside of the RA, the symbol is to remain upright with door oriented as found." What is meant by "upright"?

A: The word upright is intended to have the letters positioned left-to-right, when holding the map, looking from the FAB inby. The rule states, "The legend developed by MSHA and furnished to the teams shall be used by all teams to mark their respective mine maps."

Q: Rule 5 E (A Card) - Can the RA symbol be rectangular?

A: Legend intent is for symbol to be square. Problem designers should not put more persons or bodies than can be mapped, inside the RA. The rule states, "The legend developed by MSHA and furnished to the teams shall be used by all teams to mark their respective mine maps."

Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - Could you define "air direction" on BO map?

A: As found in the mine and as indicated conditions left in the mine.

Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - Would temporary stoppings built by the team during exploration be required to be mapped on the BO map?

A: No, only if they are left in the mine.

Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - Temporary stoppings used for final ventilation are the only stoppings required on BO map except for ventilation controls found during exploration, is this correct?

A: Yes.

- Q: **Rule 6 (A Card)** - May gases be designated as clear on BO map when the team does not travel back into the areas cleared without being discounted?
- A: Rule allows teams to mark additional information on team and BO maps as long as it does not make the map illegible. Teams cannot use symbols that are in the legend for this additional information.
- Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - Do objects such as stoppings that are found and removed on the BO map need to be noted as "removed" or "rebuilt"?
- A: Only found and conditions left.
- Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - When brattice cloth ("BC" symbol) is found it has to be mapped on the BO map. Does it have to be shown as removed or if used by the team?
- A: No
- Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - Does the BO have to note how many posts and note the 5 feet tolerance, and from which rib?
- A: Description only needs to be in the correct area location. 6 foot tolerance does not apply.
- Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - 1) Will it be a discount if BO shows a gas removed or smoke cleared in an area not re-entered by team, due to all of the airflow from one source flowing through these areas on prior ventilation? 2) Where would the BO be discounted?
- A: 1) No; 2) **There is currently no rule for the discounts.**
- Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - Do objects such as stoppings that are found and removed on the BO map need to be noted as "removed" or "rebuilt"?
- A: Per Rule 6 (A Card), only conditions found and conditions left.
- Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - When brattice cloth is found it has to be mapped on the BO map. Does it have to be shown as "removed" if used by the team?
- A: No.
- Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - Unclear on whether or not the map man or BO have to place symbol of body/live person in RA or barricade.
- A: Yes, they do.
- Q: Rule 6 (A Card and Map Legend) - How are teams supposed to map a check curtain, or regulator?
- A: There are no longer symbols in the rules to be used for mapping check curtains or regulators in contests. They should not be used.

Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - Does BO have to indicate the correct numbers on the gas placards?

A: Yes. The rule state, " The following objects/conditions as found in the mine must be located on the briefing officer's map: locations of persons/bodies; smoke; gases..."

Q: Rule 6 (A Card) - Have a placard stating, "Both doors closed." Since this is not in the legend, how would this be mapped?

A: Only the exterior door is required to be mapped. Should use the letter "D" and note "closed."

INTERPRETATIONS OF B CARD

Q: **Rule 11 (B Card)** - What type blanket must be used? Wool/space blanket/sheet?

A: A blanket shall be used. A sheet is not a blanket.

Q: Rule 12 (B Card) - What about modifying this to be consistent with current American Heart Association CPR Procedures for Assessment?

A: To correlate with the new American Heart Assoc. procedures, Item No. 2 will now state, "Look for absence of breathing or gasping."

Q: Rule 14 (B Card) - If clock not started, is checking equipment a discount?

A: Yes, The rule states, "...equipment must be tested after the clock is started..."

Q: Rule 18 (B Card) - If the team loses communication (real or simulated), it says that the team and BO maps must be turned over or covered. Does this mean if communication fails the team cannot map what they encounter it may be needed to explore to find a way out? Example, a fall occurs and it is on the communication cable and the team would need to explore to find another way out, thus they would need to map as they explore?

A: The team and BO maps are required to be turned over or covered when the team is troubleshooting or repairing the communication system within the BO enclosure. If the communication system(s) fails and cannot be repaired, the team would be required to use standard lifeline signals. This would require the team to map areas explored and then communicate their findings with the BO verbally, from outside the BO enclosure.

Q: Rule 18 (B Card) - A team using wireless communication does not ever have to arrange standard lifeline signals unless the communication fails, is this correct?

A: Yes, however, if the team will need to use a lifeline for travel, the arrangement of standard lifeline signals would be required.

Q: Rule 22 (B Card) - If the placards are turned over and the captain flips a smoke placard over, is he/she in smoke?

A: No. The smoke was not found until the placard was turned over. If captain did not continue into the smoke there would be no discount.

Q: Rule 23 (B Card) - Roof test. 1) Does Captain have to hold both hands over head?
2) Where is this stated?

A: 1) Yes. The Captain is to simulate a sound-and-vibration roof test. Rule, "...to test the roof, faces, and/or ribs by the sound and vibration method..."

2) Do not know.

Q: Rule 23 (B Card) - Is Roof and Rib Test considered after building process is started?

A: No, the rule states, "Roof and rib tests need to be made only once where the roof is designated as unsafe, caved areas, prior to building a temporary stopping..."

Q: Rule 23 (B Card) - When team needs to tear down a barricade, what you re-install is actually a temporary stopping. Would Roof and Rib Test be required?

A: A R&R Test is not required when the team is rebuilding a barricade. The barricade is a pre-existing structure. The Map Legend describes a temporary stopping as, "Stopping intact and airtight, this symbol must be used for all newly erected, intact and airtight, structures built by the team." Rule 5N (A Card) states, "All newly erected, intact and airtight structures built by the team, except for brattice cloth, in lieu of frames erected for a line curtain, will be considered to be temporary stoppings."

Q: Rule 23 (B Card) - Is a roof and rib test required by the Captain for the construction of the extended line curtain?

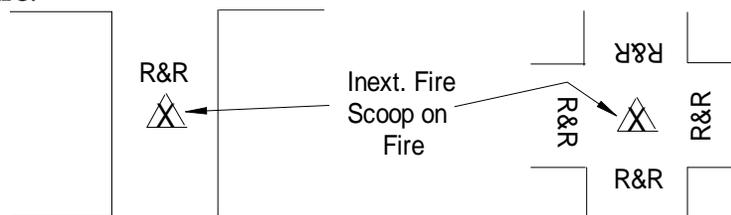
A: Yes. The rule states, "Roof and rib tests need to be made only once where the roof is designated as unsafe, caved areas, prior to building a temporary stopping, installing brattice cloth in lieu of frames erected for a line curtain..."

Q: Rule 23 (B Card) - You do a roof and rib (R&R) test in FAB to build a temporary stopping. You take the stopping partially down to short circuit the air. Then you put it back up in same place. Is another R&R test required?

A: No, the Rule states, "Roof and rib tests need to be made only once where the roof is designated as unsafe, caved areas, prior to building a temporary stopping..."

Q: Rule 23 B Card) - If you have an inextinguishable fire, and have traveled all four sides and made roof and rib tests, would this area be considered as being explored?

A: No. Captain cannot pass the fire or make roof and rib test (visual or physical) over the fire.



Q: Rules 23 and 24 (B Card) - If you make both sides of an inextinguishable fire, can you send air through the area?

A: No, area not completely explored.

Q: Rule 24 A (B Card) - Are gas tests required at shafts?

A: Not required by rule, unless used as an entrance into the mine.

Q: Rule 24 (B Card) - If a sample pipe is being used in a seal and once it is opened, the judges show a placard indicating the constituents of the sample, where is it to be mapped?

A: Within 6-feet of the sampling pipe, if placard is given to team by judge, or within 6-feet of placard affixed to seal or on floor.

Q: Rule 24 E (B Card) - If a placard is shown as: CH₄ - 5.1%
What is the correct way to map? CO - 10 PPM

A: The rule requires all three gases be on the placards. As shown above, the placard would not comply with the National Mine Rescue Contest rules. If identified in a problem submitted for Part 49 certification, the problem designer would be notified of the discrepancy and correction would be requested. If the designer decided to not correct the discrepancy, the problem would not be Part 49 certified.

Q: 1) Rule 24 E (B Card) - Symbols - gas box -  - Symbol explanation in legend states, "Write out gas name or symbol and state percent or PPM if shown on placard." Rule 24E indicates placards will show symbol and percent and PPM.

2) Is it an option for a designer to not show percent or PPM on the placard?
A: 1) Where the legend states "write out gas name or symbol" it is referring to the chemical symbol, such as CH₄, CO, and O₂. The rule clarifies the placard: "Carbon monoxide, methane and oxygen quantities will be shown on all gas placards."
2) No.

Q: Rule 24 E (B Card) - Under Interpretations of B Card; for a better training effect; could you list gases as we would list them on a placards or as they would be when physically detecting for them in mine atmospheres (methane, CO, and oxygen) instead of alphabetic order as in the text of "Interpretations of B Card"?

A: The rule states now the gases must be listed on the placard in the order as shown (CH₄, CO, O₂).

Q: Rule 24 E (B Card) - If a gas placard does not list the gases in order as shown in the rule, does it mean anything, and how would it be mapped if it doesn't?

A: Problems will not be certified if the gas placards do not comply with Rule 24E.

Q: Rule 24 E (B Card) - Since the example for this rules shows % and PPM, does this mean they must be present on all gas placards.

A: Yes.

Q: Rule 26 (B card) - Date and Initial, Example: 3-26-12 or 3-26-2012?

A: Either, discretion of the Captain.

Q: Rule 27 (B Card) - Captain must mark date and initial (D&I's) at these locations: "barricades, stoppings, ventilation doors, seals, walls of overcasts and undercasts, the location of all faces, bodies, live persons, doors of refuge alternatives and points where objects/conditions prohibit further travel in that direction."

Further in the rule it states, "Such places only need to be marked once." So my question is, is the Captain required to put D&I's at both sides of stoppings and walls of overcasts/undercasts when he/she explores them.

A: Where any object/condition prohibits further travel in that direction, a D&I is required.

Q. **Rule 29 (B Card)** - During initial exploration, when a team advances into an intersection and makes a team stop, exploration is limited to 25 feet from the captain or the No. 5 man's stopping point or to the imaginary line of the next intersection, whichever is the lesser distance. Does this mean that after initial exploration, the team can go as far as they want on a team stop?

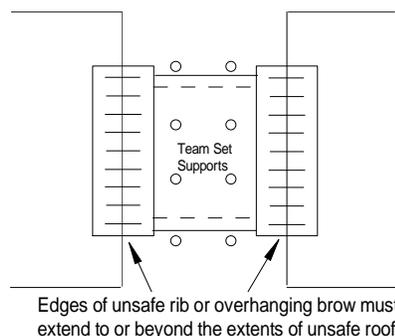
A. Yes, under the current rules.

Q: Rule 30 (B Card) - 1) Can you set timbers under an overhanging brow?
2) Would this be the same as unsafe roof?

A: 1) No; 2) No. The rule states, "A. Travel under unsafe roof, unsafe rib, or overhanging brow. See Figures 2 and 2 (a). Teams supporting unsafe roof:" Only "unsafe roof" can be supported.

Q: Rule 30 (B Card) - (Map Legend - Symbol) - Timbering unsafe roof/unsafe rib. How would teams know to use two rows, as placards are not turned over?

A: The symbols in the legend may be misleading. The unsafe rib/overhanging brow condition would have to be at the same plane as the unsafe roof for the teams to know that two rows of timbers would be required.



Q: Rule 30 B (B Card) - Is it "water over knee deep" or "waist deep"?

A: Any "water over knee deep" will stop the team. The term "waist deep", was used to describe an amount of water greater than knee deep.

Q: Rule 30 B (B Card) - Can you see anything in water or does it have to be over knee deep before you cannot see objects or conditions in the water?

A: If you can travel through the water, you can see the objects or conditions.

Q: **Rule 30 (B Card)** - After timbers are placed in an unsafe intersection, can teams ventilate North-South and East-West through the intersection? Can teams travel North-South and East-West through the intersection?

A: Teams can ventilate North-South and East-West. Teams can only travel in the direction the timbers were set.

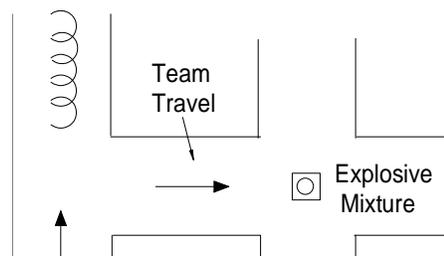
Q: **Rule 30 (B Card)** - Can 3 timbers be set along the corner in an unsafe intersection.

A: Not according to the rules.

Q: Rules 31 B and 24 B (B Card) - Before the team retreats from that intersection, gas tests shall be made. Do these rules contradict each other? (see drawing)

A: Rule 24 B states, "Carbon monoxide, methane, and oxygen deficiency tests shall be made in each opening to an intersection before the team advances or retreats from that intersection." This rule does not refer to withdrawal situation as shown below.

Rule 31B states, "Continuing exploration after conditions are found to indicate an imminent explosion is possible by the presence of an explosive mixture and evidence of fire." Team would not be continuing exploration after finding the explosive mixture, by gas test. There is no contradiction of the rules.



Q: Rule 31 B - Withdrawal Situation - Can the Captain step in by the placard that indicates an explosive mixture when evidenced of a fire is known?

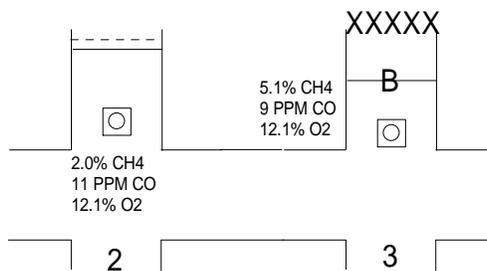
A: No. According to rule, this would be - "Continuing exploration after conditions are found to indicate an imminent explosion is possible by the presence of an explosive mixture and evidence of fire."

Q: Rule 31 B (B Card) – Have we considered a definition for a “clear air separation’ with regards to continuing exploration?
 A: Rule defines, “A team must continue to explore if it knows there is a continuous non-explosive separation between the explosive mixture and the evidence of fire or energized cables.”

Q: Rule 31B (B Card) – withdrawal in an intersection – If placard is in intersection, and you see it before making the openings of the entries, can you FPA there or are you required to make the openings also?
 A: FPA before passing the placard.

Q: Rule 31 B (B Card) – If you make 2 heading and found 11 PPM CO, then go to heading and find an explosive mixture, just outby the barricade in 3 heading, will this be a quitter?

A: There is evidence of fire in No. 2, the captain cannot determine the extent of the gas because travel is blocked. The captain continues to No. 3 and finds an explosive mixture, just outby the barricade. The distance the explosive mixture is from the barricade, would determine if the captain can acknowledge the barricade and know there is a clear air separation between the two; the evidence of a fire and the explosive mixture. If the captain can touch the placard for the gas and the placard for the barricade, at the same time without stepping inby the gas placard, it would not be a quitter. If the captain cannot touch the placard for the gas and the placard for the barricade, at the same time, then the existence of the barricade would not be known and there would be no clear air separation, and it would be a quitter.

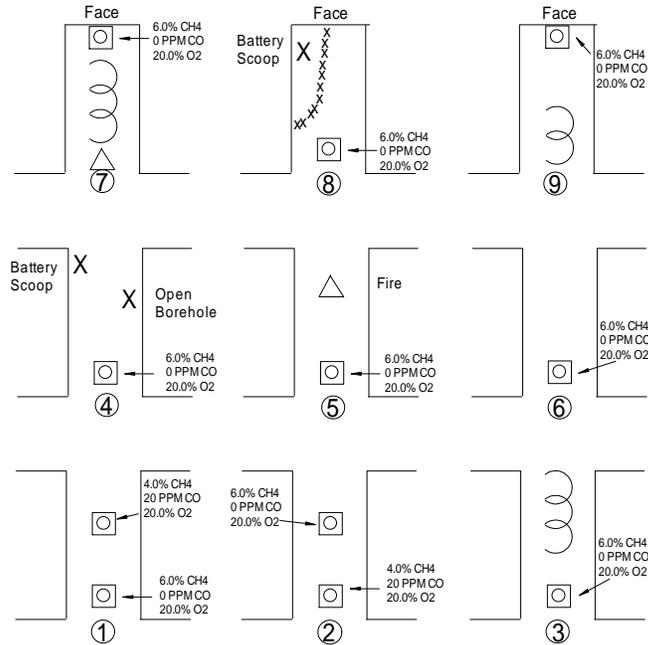


Q: Rule 31 B (B Card) - Are these situations quitters?

- A:
- 1 - Yes
 - 2 - Yes
 - 3 - Yes
 - 4 - No, explosive gas cleared at open borehole gas test (required)
 - 5 - Yes
 - 6 - No, no indication of fire, etc.
 - 7 - Yes, but it must be obvious that the battery scoop is present and not hidden under the caved area.

8 - Yes

9 - No, not at the smoke placard, but yes, at the explosive gas placard if smoke continued to gas.

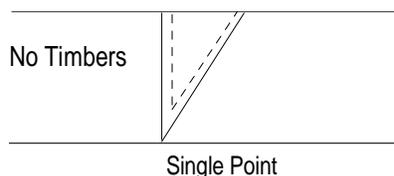


Q: Rule 31 C (B Card) - Bottom of shafts, what about the top of shaft.

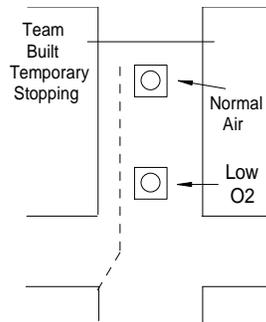
A: This rule states, " Changing conditions of the mine ventilation in such a manner that an explosive mixture is moved over an unexplored area. If a team explores all sides of overcasts or undercasts, all ends of ventilation tubes and the bottom of shafts, the in-between areas are considered explored. Where it states, "the in-between areas are considered explored" means checking the bottom of the shaft (by rule) is the same as examining all of the shaft.

Q: Rule 31 C (B Card) - Can an explosive mixture be moved over this area? (see drawing)

A: No. Entire area has not been explored. The rule states, "Changing conditions of the mine ventilation in such a manner that an explosive mixture is moved over an unexplored area. If a team explores all sides of overcasts or undercasts, all ends of ventilation tubes and the bottom of shafts, the in-between areas are considered explored."



- Q: Rule 34 (B Card) - Are the training models used for protection of the patient limited to 1-hour units, or can any be used, such as the M-20?
- A: On a conscious person, if conditions permit, an approved self-rescuer may be used. A training unit of any approved SCSR can be used.
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - Will it ever be possible for the Captain to ask a live conscious person to step out of an RA (into respirable atmosphere)?
- A: Rule requires Captain to go inside and get patient.
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - How will the team know if the inner airlock door is closed?
- A: Problem design is for the door to be closed.
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - If the RA has a placard that states, "Help, I am in the RA", is this person considered as accounted for, for the purpose of ventilating irrespirable atmosphere through the area, when everyone else is accounted for?
- A: No, must have verbal or visual contact. The RA is considered to be airtight if the door is closed. Whether all persons are or are not accounted for.
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - If irrespirable at RA cannot be removed. Rule needs to state you can only enter after rest of mine has been explored, that can be safely explored without setting timbers, or with setting timbers?
- A: In this situation, team must exhaust all options before entering the RA.
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - 1) Can ignition sources be placed inside an RA since it is now an airlock which team can enter?
2) Will it be isolated from explosive mixture?
- A: 1) No. 2) No
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - If you have a gas placard indicating low O₂, then encounter a placard indicating normal (respirable) air in the same entry. Can you build a temporary stopping in the normal air and sweep the low O₂ out of the entry/crosscut using a line curtain?
- A: No, not per rules. The rule states, "If an irrespirable atmosphere is encountered immediately outby an airtight barricade or refuge alternative, the team must remove the irrespirable atmosphere before breaching the barricade or refuge alternative. If an irrespirable atmosphere is encountered immediately outby an airtight ventilation structure and verbal contact is made with patient, the team must remove the irrespirable atmosphere before breaching the structure." The key word here is "encountered," which by definition means: "(Websters) to come upon something unexpectedly." This would mean it was pre-existing; therefore, a line curtain can only be used with pre-existing structures.



- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) states, "If the atmosphere outside the RA is cleared of contaminants (Should add (irrespirable) here), no airlock will be required." Should contaminants be changed to irrespirable?
- A: Will be changed in the future. If we change the rule we can delete this question.
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - Rule states the following, "Objects other than persons or bodies inside the refuge alternative will not need be mapped." Rule 42A (B Card) states, "Maximum of one (1) live person may be found in each refuge alternative." Which do we go by?
- A: There will only be one live person in the RA. There may also be bodies inside as well. All are required to be mapped.
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - If RA cannot be ventilated, is that the only time team can breach and purge the airlock inside.
- A: Yes.
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - If the airlock inside the RA is irrespirable and purging is necessary, is that considered a ventilation change?
- A: No
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - The first paragraph of the rule states that you must remove an irrespirable atmosphere before breaching a RA. The third paragraph states that you can breach the refuge without ventilating it but by means of an airlock.
- A: Must explore mine until it is evident by problem design that the irrespirable cannot be ventilated. Means or materials may be available somewhere in the mine, even behind a barricade. When it is evidenced that the RA cannot be ventilated by problem design, then the team can enter the RA and recover the patient using an approved breathing device.
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - The Captain is required to take gas test at RA, does this stop the gas or will a placard be required to continue over the RA?
- A: The gas test at the RA will not discontinue the gas shown on other placards in the entry/crosscut. The gases will continue to the next normal area to be tested.

The RA is not considered to be an “area.” For contest purposes, the RA is considered to be a refuge component.

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - If a team has explored all areas of the mine and all persons are accounted for, but the team did not enter the RA, would this be considered an unexplored area and would passing this RA with means to enter it be considered in the two-break limit?

A: No. A RA is not an area; it is considered a rescue component. Additionally, teams would not have to enter the RA at the end of a problem if all persons have been accounted for.

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - If an RA cannot be ventilated prior to breaking the two-break limit, can you breach the RA then?

A: A RA is not an area, it is a rescue component. Thus, it does not meet the requirements of Rule 45 for systematic exploration.

Q: Rule 5 (A card) and Rule 35 (B Card) - Would the second (inside) door of the RA be required to be mapped?

A: No, nothing required to be mapped inside RA except persons and bodies.

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - Is a RA an inaccessible area?

A: A RA is not an area, it is a rescue component. Thus, it does not meet the requirements of Rule 45 for systematic exploration.

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - When purging irrespirable atmosphere out of a RA airlock, where does it go? Does it go outside the RA, or is it just gone?

A: Just gone.

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - Term RA includes attached airlock?

A: Yes, the RA is considered a single all inclusive unit.

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - Since stretcher cannot go into RA, will team be discounted under Rule 11 (B Card)?

A: The rule states, “If the live person is unconscious he may be moved outside the refuge alternative before being placed on a stretcher.” The RA may be large enough to accommodate a stretcher. If not, the patient can be brought out of the RA. There will be no discount under Rule 11.

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - If team does not recognized that ventilation can be done and decide irrespirable at a RA cannot be moved, how will the team be discounted?

A: Per Rule 35

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) – How do you know that you are committed to an RA and that you must remove a contaminant? For example, the person is unconscious but the RA is deployed.

A: Verbal or visual contact is required in order to be committed to a missing person.

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) – Will gas placards be inside RA?

A: Gas placard would be required where problem designer wants airlock to be purged. Other gas placards could be placed inside the RA. However, by rule, “Objects other than persons or bodies inside the refuge alternative will not need be mapped.”

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) – If a team finds an RA and has no verbal contact indicating that a person is in the RA, will the team be required to enter the RA at the end of the problem if all persons are not accounted for? In this case, will teams be required to ventilate an irrespirable atmosphere from the RA before they breach it?

A: Yes, the team must account for all missing persons, so the team must look inside the RA. Teams must ventilate the RA before breaching it, if it has an irrespirable atmosphere outside it and it can be ventilated.

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) – Should you have to explore the entire mine or just enough to know that you cannot ventilate the RA before you breach it? I can think of circumstances in the immediate area of the RA that would tell you this.

A: When breaching an RA where there may be only an assumption that the area around the RA cannot be ventilated, could lead to a discount. It would be best if the team would explore more than needed for the assurance the RA cannot be ventilated. In some instances the ability to ventilate or not may be obvious. In other cases extensive exploration, including breaching a barricade, may be necessary to obtain the means or materials to ventilate the RA, or provide assurance that it cannot be ventilated.

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) – If a team finds a patient in a RA and irrespirable on the outside, then the team explores the rest of the mine and discovers another conscious patient behind a barricade at the last place to explore. At this point the team realizes that the RA can't be ventilated but the barricade with the person behind it can. Which one must be rescued first?

A: The barricade patient. Teams must exhaust all possibilities before breaching a RA with an irrespirable atmosphere outside it. There may be means or materials available behind the barricade that the team can use to ventilate the RA.

Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - Are persons found in RA conscious live persons, or will there be bodies and/or unconscious live persons? The map legend states persons rescued from an RA will be mapped as a conscious live person.

- A: Live persons found inside the RA may be conscious or unconscious. There will only be a maximum of one live person per RA. There may be multiple bodies inside an RA. The map legend has been revised.
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - If the irrespirable atmosphere inside the airlock door of an RA is smoke, does the rule allow the captain and one other team member to “come off” the line in smoke in order to close the door?
- A: Yes, the rule (Rule 22 (B card)) concerning lifelines used in smoke will not apply to RA airlocks.
- Q: Rule 35 (B Card) - If people are unaccounted for and there are unexplored areas such as unsafe roof or water over knee deep and the team has a pump or timbers and there is also an RA, does the team have to set timbers first and look in unexplored areas for missing persons or can they look in the RA first?
- A: Team must explore as much of the mine as necessary to determine that an RA that has an irrespirable atmosphere outside it cannot be ventilated before breaching the RA.
- Q. **Rule 36 (B Card)** - Will the briefing officer isolation area be airtight, allowing irrespirable air to cross the isolation area?
- A. Yes, problem design must make it clear.
- Q: Rule 39 (B Card) - Is a complete apparatus check required for patient?
- A: Yes, unless unconscious, then mask tightness test is not required.
- Q: How many check curtains can you erect with line curtain to ventilate a barricade?
- A: Only 1 brattice cloth, BC, can be used. Problem should be designed so that no more than one is needed.
- Q: When you build a temporary off a corner to extend your line curtain, will the No. 5 person be able to stop at the end of the temporary stopping and hold it up in the air or would the team have to spread out for the length of the temporary stopping?
- A: One end of the brattice cloth should be affixed to the field structure and the No. 5 person can hold up the loose end, while the remaining team members hold up the line curtain.
- Q. **Rule 41 (BCard)** - Does this rule apply if the patient has not been seen visually?
- A. If a patient has not been seen or touched by the captain, he would not be considered to come under this rule.

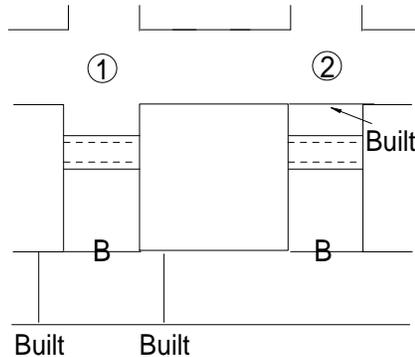
Q: Rule 42 (B Card) - Does a note in a lunch box commit you to a person behind a barricade?

A. No, it must be verbal or visual contact.

Q: Rule 43 (B Card) - 1) Do these three team built stoppings make an airlock?
2) Does the single team built in this example meet Rule 43?

A: The rule states, "An airlock is formed by erecting a temporary stopping at a location(s) that will provide the equivalent airtight separation as the airtight structure or condition breached by the team.

- 1) Yes, this would create an airlock to breach the barricade.
- 2) Neither the barricade nor team built stopping side of the area contain enough ventilation controls to create an air-tight separation between the atmosphere outside the barricade and the atmosphere inside the barricade.



Q. **Rule 43 (B Card)** - Tying in and across; Does a stopping with a hole in it stop teams from tying across? Does it require an airlock?

A. If a ventilation structure is not intact and airtight, it does not stop a gas, does not require a gas test, and does not require an airlock to breach.

Q: Rule 43 (B Card) - Please illustrate what you mean by "within one crosscut" in regards to airlocking?

A: The rule states, "An airlock is formed by erecting a temporary stopping at a location(s) that will provide the equivalent airtight separation as the airtight structure or condition breached by the team. An equivalent airtight separation would require an airlock built for each airtight structure removed within one crosscut." The intent was to have the airlock(s) built as near as possible to the barricade being breached. If an airlock(s) was built farther from the barricade than it could be, **assuming the nearest crosscut(s) or entry(s) is not blocked**, this would be a delay in removing the patient promptly to the FAB.

Q: Rule 44 (B Card) - Explain how to erect a line curtain. What procedures would you use to erect the line curtain? What materials would you use?

A: The line curtain should be constructed of lightweight, durable material, such as strips of brattice cloth. A hook or other means of fastening the BC to the structure used in the contest, should be provided at one end, with the other end open with no hardware attached. The line curtain should be attached at one end on the corner of a block and then held up by the team members.

Q: Rule 45 B (B Card) - after the team finds the end of a contaminant, is the team required to tie into that entry 1 or 2 crosscuts inby it (end of contaminant) or can they go in either direction, if traveling in the No. 2 entry?

A: Yes, once the extent of the contaminant is known the team can go in either direction.

Q: Rule 45 B (B Card) - "As the team advances" into a contaminated entry then discovers a placard that clears the contaminate.....the team must stop before the captain passes the placard and then make other advances in the other contaminated or adjacent entries.

Can the captain pass the placard that clears the contaminate if the team is at a stop prior to encountering the placard that clears the contaminate?

A: If the team is at a stop, it is not considered as advancing.

Q. **Rule 45 (B Card)** - If the written problem states explore all accessible areas, does a team have to go back in to finish exploring the mine (example, the last face not explored) if all persons are accounted for.

A. Yes, with the key word being accessible.

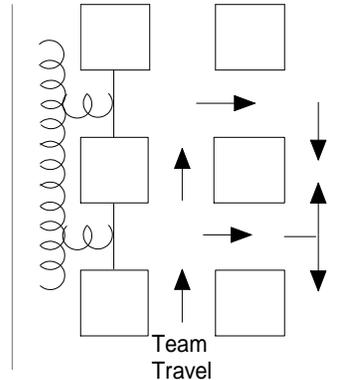
Q. **Rule 45 (B card)** - Is a lunch pail the same as a lunch bucket?

A. Yes, it must be mapped as stated on placard.

Q: Rule 45 (B Card) - 1) If team chooses to advance in the No. 2 entry (adjacent to the contaminant), does the rule allow them to go 2 crosscuts before tying into blocked entry, No. 1?

2) Can team tie across and behind into No. 3 entry as they explore?

A: 1) Yes. 2) Yes



Q: Rule 45 F (B Card) - If the written problem states explore all accessible areas, and the teams have pumps or timbers, do they have to explore through the unexplored areas after all persons are accounted for? If you have pumps or timbers, wouldn't the areas then be accessible?

A: No. Rule clearly states inaccessible areas need not be explored UNLESS the team has explored all accessible areas AND there are unaccounted for persons OR an explosive mixture to be moved through the inaccessible areas.

Q: Rule 45 F (B Card) - Can a team explore behind seals anytime?

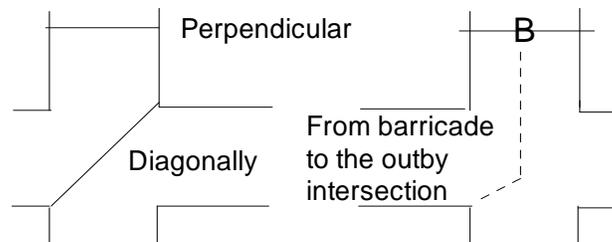
A: No. The rule has been revised to read "Teams cannot explore behind seals unless required by the problem and then only after all accessible areas of the mine are explored."

Q: **Rule 46 (B Card)** - Can an overcast be rebuilt if "partially destroyed" or just "destroyed?"

A: Overcasts cannot be rebuilt or repaired.

Q: Rule 49 E (B Card) – Need clarification?

A: Rule states, "Ventilation structures built by the team may only be placed perpendicular across an entry, crosscut, or opening, or diagonally from corner to corner at intersections. (Exception: Brattice cloth in lieu of frames and brattice cloth may be used to erect a line curtain which can only extend from a face, barricade or airtight separation to the outby intersection.) See drawings.



Q: Rule 51 (B card) - Not following written instructions. Should this be only a 15-point discount?

A: Yes. The rule does not state "each occurrence" or "each infraction."