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| Received 10/16/06 MSHA/OSRV |
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Message:

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| PPL-P06-V-9-COMM-9 |
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**“PPL P06-V-9—Emergency Response Plan, Post Accident
Breathable Air”**

Emergency Supply of Breathable Air

Decisions related to breathable air is dependent on continued research. Options currently available (i.e. chemically produced oxygen, oxygen and compressed air) offer some opportunity, yet these are unproven.

Each mine is different. Decisions as to the amount of breathable air and needed provisions for a sustained period of time should be location specific. Conditions specific to the mine and the operator’s rescue capability should also be considered. Forty-eight hours is a reasonable time frame for “sustained period of time”.

Miners must understand the importance if making an informed decision when faced with an emergency requiring evacuation. Priority is to escape from the mine. Barricading, whether built or prefabricated or entering a so called safe room is a miner’s last resort to survive. Education and training facilitates these important decisions.

Among the many areas to be addressed, training in the donning and transfer of Self Contained Self-Rescue devices is lacking in approved procedures. Our industry has been waiting for months on MSHA, NIOSH and the manufacturers to provide the operators with these safe procedures.

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