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Sent: Friday, January 27, 2006 5:26 PM
To: zzMSHA-Standards - Comments to Fed Reg Group
Subject: Public Submission

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Public Comments on Underground Mine Rescue Equipment and Technology:=====

Title: Underground Mine Rescue Equipment and Technology
FR Document Number: 06-00722
Legacy Document ID:
RIN: 1219-AB44
Publish Date: 01/25/2006 00:00:00
Submitter Info:

First Name:
Last Name:
Organization Name:

Comment Info: =====

General Comment: You need to do some basic research on how miners function in the thick smoke and chaotic conditions that follow a mine explosion or fire. I think that you will find that many miners panic, become disoriented, get lost, rapidly suck down their oxygen and fail to effectively exit the mine. Miners need some basic training on how to function in these conditions. Simple aids and devices such as string and line reels, line direction markers, chalk, a compass, pocket strobe lights, etc., may greatly enhance the survivability of any miners trapped in these conditons.

Look at a recent NIOSH report on mine fires for additional information (Fire Response Preparedness for Underground Mines). All miners should have to don SCSRs and practice evacuations in thick smoke in a mine-like environment.