

Fire Protection



Best Practice Series BP-85

Communications during a mine emergency are a critical part of safe fire fighting and evacuation activities. A successful evacuation or fire fighting operation is dependent on the quality and timeliness of the information that is communicated. The sooner miners are notified of a problem, the greater the chance of a successful fire fighting effort, or a successful evacuation. **TIME IS NEVER YOUR FRIEND** during a mine fire, or other mine emergency; however, hasty response based on incomplete or inaccurate information can lead to avoidable injuries or fatalities.

LOCATIONS

- ✓ Working Sections
 - ✓ Belt Drives
 - ✓ Strategic Locations
- **ALWAYS** provide prompt, accurate information to the surface regarding emergency situations.
 - **ALWAYS** promptly follow the instructions of the designated responsible person.
 - **ALWAYS** consider the use of personal communication devices that could provide key mine personnel early warning in the event of a fire or emergency situation.
 - **ALWAYS** consider optional forms of remote communication such as interlocking mine power or main belt operation with the main mine fans.
 - **NEVER** disregard or take lightly reports of a mine fire.
 - **NEVER** assume anything has been completed during an emergency. **ASK FIRST!**
 - **NEVER** attempt to respond to an emergency situation without first getting instructions from the designated responsible person.

It Happened . . .

- ☛ A fire rekindled following a roof fall in the gob. The longwall area and eventually the mine was sealed. All miners were successfully evacuated through the use of Personal Emergency Device (PED) System.
- ☛ Several miners conducted an unplanned response to what they mistakenly thought was a fire on another section, rather than evacuating the mine. In fact, an explosion had occurred that had destroyed critical ventilation controls. Because of the destroyed ventilation controls, a second explosion occurred that killed the responding miners.



Example of a communication station for dispatcher



Example of a mine wide monitoring control room

Arrive Home Alive

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Mine Safety and Health Administration
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