

**APPENDIX AK**

**MINE EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND  
FIREFIGHTING PLAN**

## Appendix AK

### Mine Emergency Evacuation and Firefighting Program of Instruction

The plan is designed to instruct miners on all shifts in the procedures for mine emergencies that present an imminent danger to miners from fire, explosions, and inundations, and to evacuate all miners not required for a mine emergency response. The minimum contents stipulated by 30 CFR, § 75.1502 and § 75.1504 in an operator's program requires quarterly drills to be performed. There are four emergencies that have been determined to be imminent dangers to persons underground; training drills dealing with emergencies such as fires, water inundation, gas inundation, and explosions must be performed on a quarterly basis. The records for the five quarters preceding the explosion on April 5, 2010, show that no explosion drill training was conducted. Several miners commented during interviews that the drills they had participated in dealt with mine fires. No interviewees mentioned any other scenarios being covered. Employees are required to know the responsible person designated by the mine operator to take charge in a mine emergency. Also, they must be trained to use fire fighting equipment, locate emergency supplies, know the location of all mine communication devices, travel the escapeway routes, know how to use rescue alternatives or barricade, perform donning procedures of self-contained self-rescuers (SCSR), and understand their typical job assignments during an emergency.

A review of the operator's approved plans, records, and testimony was performed by the accident investigation team, which identified deficiencies in the operator's program. Emergency drill records provided by PCC for the five quarters preceding the explosion were reviewed, revealing that the operator had not only failed to develop a systematic means to insure that all miners received proper training during emergency drills, but had also failed to ensure that drills were being conducted. The records indicated that members of management conducting drills failed to cover the required topics in the Mine Emergency Evacuation and Firefighting Program of Instruction, approved on January 25, 2010. The program requires miners to receive training in the proper deployment of rescue chambers in every drill, but only three records provided by the operator, from the first quarter of 2009, indicated that the deployment of rescue chamber training occurred during the drills. The records provided no indication that any subsequent quarterly drills covered the subject. Several witnesses testified they were provided rescue chamber training during annual refresher training and did not mention any training received during quarterly drills. One employee was interviewed and testified:

Q. Okay. And how about the refuge chamber, have you had any training on that?

A. Yeah. Yeah, a couple times a year. (miner testimony)

The drill records have deficiencies that indicated a disregard by mine management for miners' safety. The operator is required to certify by signature and date that the training or drill was held in accordance with regulations. Mine management failed to ensure all miners were involved in the proper drills, and trained according to the approved programs. Miners were also not alternating travel between the primary and alternate escapeways from quarter to quarter. Examples of interviews with miners show a lack of proper training:

Q. So you're saying the last time you'd walked the primary escapeway is back before the longwall started?

A. Yeah, it was in '09.

Q. Have you participated in the quarterly evacuation drills from your assigned work area?

A. Uh-huh (yes).

Q. When was the last time?

A. Goodness gracious. It seems like it was like November maybe we walked out...

Q. When was the last time you traveled the primary escapeway? How many times did you travel?

A. Primary escapeway at UBB?

Q. Uh-huh (yes).

A. I couldn't even tell you

Q. I think at 78 Crosscut down here on the --- where you come to those four sets of doors right there?

A. Right.

Q. Okay. Did anyone or any people on a section ever talk about what would happen if those doors had left, been left open and a fire or something happened outby? Where would you all go since that was your intake escapeway?

A. No.

Q. And when was the last --- I know I'm jumping around here, but when was the last time that you traveled your primary escapeway?

A. I don't think I ever did that up there.

Q. Ever since you've been there you never --- didn't know your travelway, primary?

A. Well, just they showed us on the map. That was about it.

Q. Okay. Were there any drills or anything that they made you guys do, walking the intake escapeway coming out of the mine?

A. Yeah. There was one time that we had to do that. We had to leave the section early and walk the intake out.

Q. Do you remember approximately when that was?

A. No, I don't. I really don't

Q. Did you ever travel the intake escapeway?

A. Only thing I ever done relating intake is when I worked over Thanksgiving vacation, I helped put the leaky feeder system in, in the intake. But that was going down the main line.

Q. When was the last time you done an escapeway drill on the beltline?

A. That I recall, I don't know if we ever walked the beltline. I really don't recall.

Q. When was the last time you was down the beltline?

A. The farthest I ever went on the beltline was maybe walked the length of the monorail.

Since the explosion, the mine operator has been cited for failure to comply with the approved Mine Emergency Evacuation and Fire Fighting Program, failure to remove miners to safe areas when two consecutive carbon monoxide sensors indicated alerts, and for the failure to conduct drills according to 75.1504.