

2016 Mine Rescue Questions and Answers

Q: Does “explore the entire mine and account for all missing persons” mean that even if the missing persons are accounted for and there are accessible areas that have not been explored, those accessible areas have to be explored.

A: Yes. Team will be discounted under Rule 44A if they don't.

Q: Ventilating over an inextinguishable fire. What about sending low O₂ over the fire area if all missing persons have been located. We can send it through unexplored areas, why not over an inextinguishable fire.

A: Rule 30 G prohibits it. The practice of sending air over a burning fire would provide oxygen to the fire, possibly causing the fire to increase or spread.

Q: Can back-up teams turn fans on or off, or pumps on or off?

A: No.

Q: Rule 30A1(c) Would the team be discounted if the captain didn't finish the roof test before bringing the patient out?

A: No

Q: For timbers previously set before the team arrives. Could we put something in the rules that states they can or cannot be used? My team was discounted at one contest for using a timber already set and then discounted later for NOT using a timber previously set.

A: Timbers previously set CANNOT be used by the working team. Problem designers should provide enough timbers to allow the working team to support any necessary areas required by the problem.

Q: Roof Test – What if both a zig-zag and straight across test is done, is this a discount?

A: No, additional tests should not be discounted.

Q: The number of team members in isolation will be limited to ten uniformed team members. Is the Command Center Attendant (CCA) included in the ten team members?

A: Rule 7 under Interpretation of A Cards states that the CCA may or may not be one of the ten team members referred to in the rules. This was to allow the teams to use someone that is not trained as a mine-rescue team member as the

CCA. (Additionally, the CCA does not have to be dressed the same as the rest of the team.)

Q: Do the 2014 and 2015 Questions and Answers apply in 2016?

A: No, applicable ones were incorporated into the 2016 rules, and the rest will be removed from the web site.

Q: Rule 36 – How would a team member be discounted for not immediately returning to the lifeline in smoke once the patient is placed on stretcher. It isn't addressed in Rule 36.

A: Discount under Rule 22, a 2-point discount for each person who does not immediately return to lifeline.

Q: Does brattice cloths have to be shown as moved on the briefing officer's map?

A: No, not required by rules.

Q: We are now going to have a gas placard alongside conditions such as unsafe roof. With that being said, if the placard is the least bit in by the unsafe roof, the team does not have to map the gas box. Should we not have the gas placard immediately out by the condition.

A: We expect the gas placard that is intended to be at the condition to be ADJACENT (side by side) with the placard for the condition. Problem designers should make it plain that the placards are side by side.

Q: Roof and rib tests must be made where the roof is designated unsafe, caved areas, prior to building a temporary stopping, rebuilding a stopping, and at all faces. Does that mean that a captain would not have to take a roof and rib test at caved airtight areas?

A: A caved airtight area is a caved area.

Q: Rule 6 – Does the BO/CCA have to write out condition of a live person (walking, talking, etc.)?

A: Yes, the only exceptions are for conditions of permanent and temporary stoppings.

Q: Team map and BO/CCA map – If a man is talking (Help, get me out of here.) but placard does not say talking, do maps need to indicate talking?

A: No, only what is on the placard describing the patient.

Q: Statement 45: It should read “Carbon monoxide can be explosive” instead of “Carbon monoxide is explosive.”

A: Carbon monoxide is explosive at certain ranges, so the sentence is true.

Q: Is a gas test required at an FPA?

A: No.

Q: Is the fresh air base the only location a back-up team can build?

A: Yes, and only there after the captain has performed a roof and rib test for the area.

Q: What determines the start of the building process for a team-built temporary stopping?

A: One side of the stopping must be built. Where curtains with hooks are used, one side must be attached/hooked to the railing, ropes, etc.

Q: Figure 6 in by overcast indicates to build two stoppings. If the caved area is airtight, will one build suffice?

A: Yes, if there is an airtight separation in the area where one of the airlocks must be built, the airtight separation will suffice for the airlock.

Q: Can a CSE SR 100 be used in a contest?

A: Yes, but only for mine rescue contests/practices and only for a conscious live person. The CSE SR 100 must have been opened and turned into a training model. Additionally, the CSE SR 100 must be sterilized and properly assembled.

Q: Will there only be one patient or live person inside an RA for mine rescue contests?

A: Yes, Rule 41A states only 1 live person maximum will be in an RA. (There can be multiple bodies.)

Q: Rule 48D – For ventilating purposes, the rule states that diagonal structures “may only be placed” from corner to corner. In entries with a solid pillar line on the left or right of an intersection, how does this rule apply and can a diagonal structure be used here?

A: If there is a room neck or opening in the solid rib in this intersection, a diagonal could be used. Otherwise, it can't be used.

Q: Does the captain have to initiate and conduct apparatus checks?

A: Rule 7 under Interpretations of B Cards states “Each team captain will examine gauges and apparatus of team members and have his gauge and apparatus examined by a team member.” So, YES, the captain must initiate the check and examine the other four team members. (Note: Any team member can keep track of the time and alert the captain that it is time for team apparatus check.)

Q: Rule 23 – If a problem is designed with an object/condition, person, etc., in or under an overhanging brow and must be mapped, what would be the correct procedure to explore or recover the object/condition, person, etc.?

A: The rules do not address how to support an overhanging brow or unsafe rib. Problem designers are not to put anything in these areas that would have to be moved, reached, or recovered by the team. Only objects that must be mapped but not have to be reached by the team for the working of the problem may be placed in such areas this year.

Q: Rule 24A – Where a gas test is required at an intact barricade, the extent of gas should end there. Why is it necessary to ventilate to breach a barricade?

A: The barricade is built to keep the person(s) behind the barricade safe from dangerous and irrespirable atmospheres. If the barricade is breached without removing such atmospheres, it is likely that the atmospheres would migrate into the barricade and endanger the person(s) life.

Q: Fresh Air Base Procedures – Will the team be discounted for having technical difficulties during the 4-minute setup period? Example: The SD card doesn't load or boot-up immediately or a power supply issue occurs?

A: If it is a problem because of the contest, then No the team would not be discounted. The contest officials should work to resolve the issue before starting the clock. If the problem is due to the team's equipment, if it can't be resolved quickly, the clock will be started and the team will just not be able to do the electronic mapping.

Q: If the fan is OFF and is shown as such on the team and BO/CCA maps, does blowing or exhausting have to be shown?

A: If the fan is off to start with, it is neither blowing nor exhausting and will not be shown. If the team shuts the fan off at the end of the problem, it will be shown as off on all maps and a direction will not be needed.

Q: If a team is in an intersection at a team stop and finds timbers that could be used to rescue a person from under unsafe roof in an outby area of the mine, does the team have to go rescue the patient and then return to the same intersection and finish the exploration?

A: Under Rule 41(c)(1), the team can perform any function at that team stop where the timbers are found other than the restrictions listed. So the team may finish team functions and then go back and recover the patient, as long as the #5 man does not pass the timbers. If the team does not finish everything at the team stop where the timbers were found, the team must return to this team stop and finish exploration there before advancing to another unexplored intersection.

Q: If a placard states "Temporary Stopping Not Intact," does the team have to write in "Not Intact" on the team map?

A: No, just the symbol.

Q: If a placard states "Airtight Permanent Stopping," does the team have to write in "Airtight" on the team map?

A: No, just the symbol.

Q: Rule 1 – If a team does not have a patient for any reason and a bystander is used, what if the team does not put the patient under air and sometimes not even on a stretcher if required. With this clear advantage on time and proper donning of apparatus, will all teams competing be granted this same option to not follow the rules regarding their patients?

A: At the national contest, we will consider an emergency as something that occurs after the team has registered on site. We expect a team to bring a patient with them to the contest. If something happens at the contest and the team is then without a patient, the contest directors will provide a patient. At the national contest, we plan to use someone that is trained as a mine rescue team member (our MEU team). Local contests may have similar requirements.

Q: A card Rule 3 – The discounts given to teams for exceeding the average time are not always fair to the teams who work the problems correctly. Teams who work the problem correctly by the rules have been given discounts for being slower than the average time because other teams may do it quicker but wrong. Why not apply a time limit to all problems so this situation does not occur?

A: Rule was put in place to try to address as many situations as we could. We feel we made it as fair as possible.

Q: A card Rule 5 – When a team tears down a barricade and then puts it back up, is it a temporary stopping or a barricade? What if it is moved slightly from the original place where it was found?

A: If both sides are unhooked, show it as a temporary stopping. A roof and rib test will be required in this case. If one side is unhooked, verbiage showing it put back will be all that is required if the one side is reattached.

Q: A card Rule 6 – At the end of paragraph 3 it reads “2 per team stop, maximum of 6 per problem.” Does this mean for everything included in that paragraph.

A: No, only for the dotted lines.

Q: A card – If the team and BO/CCA maps are correct with the way the problem was worked at the end of the working time, where does it say in the rules to discount both maps based on what is put on the final vent map?

A: If the team and BO/CCA maps are correct, it should reflect the same thing on the final vent map. Team captain or designee is given the opportunity to see the final vent map and agree that it is correct.

Q: Please define ‘visual.’ We have been told visual means side by side in direction of travel, yet Rule 23 states “in an intersection, placards on imaginary rib lines will be considered as being discovered when the captain enters the intersection.”

A: Everything IN the intersection must be addressed as the captain discovers it. Placards ON imaginary rib lines of intersections must be addressed prior to team leaving the area. If the condition extends into the intersection, it must be addressed by the captain prior to advancing into the opening.

Q: Can the backup team move a stopping in the fresh air base if the captain of the working team has made two roof checks at different locations?

A: Captain of the working team must initial the first stopping after the building process has begun and before the clock stops or the stopping is completely torn down. But yes, the backup team can move a stopping to a different location in the fresh air base if the roof and rib has been done for the new location.

Q: Rule 48E – How is a solid rib any different than a corner for using a line curtain?

A: For contest purposes, it will allow the problem designers to better control how the mine will be ventilated.

Q: Is visual evidence of a fire, that is, actually finding a fire, treated the same as finding evidence of a fire (over 10 PPM Carbon Monoxide)?

A: Yes, the rule states “evidence of fire.” Visual confirmation of a fire, CO over 10 PPM, and smoke are all evidence of a fire.

Q: If a team finds a fire and it leads to a withdrawal situation because there is not a known clear-air separation, does the team need to put the fire out?

A: The rule allows teams to go to anywhere they have already been at that team stop. It does not preclude putting out the fire, as long as no further exploration is done. The teams would not be discounted either way, putting it out or not putting it out.