

MINE RESCUE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Revised 05/05/2017

MINE RESCUE

Q: What will be done to address Smart Watches in lock-up?

A: Rule 8 of Rules Governing 2017 Mine Rescue Contests states that teams can be disqualified if they receive unauthorized information. Smart watches are communication devices and should not be brought into lock-up.

Q: If problem statement states mine has three headings and team enters from the side, how do you explore? Team map also shows headings.

A: Problem designers have been told to clearly state how entries/crosscuts are laid out if team enters mine from different approach.

Q: Is the PowerPoint presentation going to be available on MSHA's website?

A: Yes, but the presentation is for training purposes only. The rules and the Q&A's cover everything in the presentation.

Q: If a quote on a note does not have quotation marks (""") but the map man uses quotation marks, is that a discount?

A: Yes, must be verbatim.

Q: By law a team is only required to have 6 team members. Can a team with only 6 team members compete at the National Contest?

A: 30 CFR Part 49 does only require 6 team members. However the National Rules require a minimum of 7 team members.

Q: Can the briefing office do the Visio map and not the briefing officer map?

A: Yes, if the team only has a briefing officer in the command center, he has the option of doing either map.

Q: Scenario – A team is advancing in an entry and is stopped by unsafe roof. There is a gas placard 10 feet outby the unsafe roof. The other entries are blocked, but the team has timbers. If the team timbers through the unsafe roof, does the gas extend through the unsafe roof?

A: No, the GT required at the unsafe roof clears the gas since there was not a placard there to indicate it continued.

Q: Can smoke return in the mine after ventilation is changed? How would that be indicated to the team?

A: This is a problem design issue. This should not occur.

Q: Scenario – A team finds a heading with a gas placard just inby the intersection. There is a face placard on one side of the face and a cut-through into old works placard on the other side. Does the gas test at the face stop the gas from going into old works? What if the face is caved? What if there is only a placard that states cut into old works?

A: The gas test at the face or the caved stops the gas. A gas test is not required at the placard that states cut into old works, so the gas continues into the old works.

Q: Can you hold a curtain up to a rib corner that has an unsafe roof running across the imaginary rib line?

A: No. However, if the unsafe roof has been properly supported, the team can then hold a curtain up to the rib corner.

Q: Scenario – A team has extinguished a fire in an intersection, and subsequently had to build a diagonal in that intersection. Does the team have to conduct a zig-zag roof and rib test no matter which direction the team travels through the intersection.

A: Yes. Whether going inby or outby, or on either side of the diagonal build, the team must do a zig-zag roof and rib test every time the team passes through the intersection.

Q: If timbers are previously set though an area of unsafe roof, does the team have to set its' own timbers?

A: Yes. Teams cannot use timbers that they did not set.

Q: How would you map a seal if the placard states "Seal with sampling pipe, 4% CH₄, 0 PPM CO, 8% O₂"?

A: Problem designers should not put a gas reading on a placard with anything else. There should be separate placards for the gas and the seal. With two separate placards, map the symbol for a seal, write out "with sampling pipe", and map the symbol for a gas, and write out the constituents.

Q: If a placard just states "Stopping", how should it be mapped?

A: In this case, if the team just mapped an "X" and wrote out the word stopping, the team should not be discounted. There is no symbol for a "Stopping", but there is for a "Temporary Stopping" or a "Permanent Stopping."

Teams asked several questions related to proper mapping of placards that did not state what the legend showed for certain items. Problem designers need to use the appropriate language with the appropriate symbol as shown in the legend.

Q: Rule 25 of B Card – Is it 10 discounts per placard or 10 discounts for entire problem?

A: 10 discounts for the entire problem for improper procedure, only 2 discounts per each location.

Q: If there is an irrespirable atmosphere in an intersection, and a barricade 7 feet into the entry ahead, can the team just airlock and go in or does the team have to clear the intersection first?

A: If there is not an irrespirable atmosphere immediately outby the barricade, the team can airlock and go in.

Q: Team communication fails and can't be fixed. Team can go to standard lifeline signals. At end of problem they can talk to command center/briefing officer to tell them what they mapped. How will this be done where command center isn't on the field anymore?

A: Comparing maps was removed from rules when the briefing officer was removed from the field. Yes, the team can talk over its' communication system and discuss what is on maps. It is up to the teams to ensure its' communication system remains functional or have a backup system. Rule 18 details how to repair communication systems.

Q: If a team is at a team stop and for some reason does not make all the imaginary lines at that stop (for instance, timbering to a patient and removing the patient) is it ok to come back to that stop and finish that area and will there be any discounts.

A: If a team does not explore all areas required by Rule 29, team must come back to that stop and complete the exploration. There will be no discount for this scenario. Team would be discounted, however, if it traveled to another unexplored intersection before coming back to complete this one.

Q: If the captain, for some reason, cannot reach all the imaginary lines (for instance in smoke) and the team has to call for an advance and stop in that same intersection, will this be considered at the team stop or would it be two team stops?

A: Team can reposition in the same intersection in order to explore to the extent required by rule 29. However, the team must comply with Rule 41 if the recovery of a patient is involved.

Q: On circles for a BC or timber set, how perfect does the circle have to be?

A: Make it a circle

Q: Can a copy of rules be brought to Command Center by CCA or BO?

A: Yes

Q: Since CC is now on the surface, is the BO or CCA exempt from having to wear boots and hard hat?

A: BO is not exempt; however the CCA IS exempt-CCA is not part of the working team.

Q: Teams must be dressed similarly; Can some members wear shorts and others pants, as long as they are same color?

A: No-teams must be dressed similarly/uniformly

Q: Where in the rules does it address that a captain cannot pass placards?

A: The rules do not address this so if a problem designer is going to require not passing placards without turning them over, it must be stated in either the written statement or the written instruction and discounted under either Rule 49 or Rule 50, whichever is applicable.

Q: Is a battery for a phone or pager phone not attached to its approved device like a phone in an explosive air gas mixture or having an explosive airgas mixture move over it considered an ignition source?

A: All batteries will be considered explosive, except for cap light batteries. Radio batteries must be attached to radio to be considered approved, permissible and non-explosive.

Q: Braces with the curtain and spikes on the bottom; if these plastic braces break, what would the protocol be?

A: This would be addressed in the captain's briefing.

Q: Can teams provide their own index cards, provided they are not predated or pre-initialed?

A: No.

Q: Putting clear on a gas placard that hasn't been reentered is not allowed by Rule 5 (H). I think it is fine to do this but needs to be in Q&A's so you can, since rules say you can't, because writing clear on here is an existing symbol.

A: Can put additional info as long as symbol on legend is not used. If you know you cleared it and don't go back, you may show cleared.

Q: When a team reaches intersection that has already been made from the outby side, does the team have to go to outby imaginary line or just break plane where it has already made?

A: Just break the plane.

Q: Do patients' arms have to be strapped down?

A: Teams should not be discounted for not strapping down patients arm. This gives the patient the ability to remove his mask or CareVent in an emergency situation.

Q: Should the symbol for FPA be placed on the map in the direction of travel?

A: It just has to be shown in correct location; orientation will not be judged.

Q: Can a team be discounted for using the FPA symbol where it is not required?

A: Yes.

Q: We have run into field being set up with live man or just conscious on a card. The legend says live person. Can we be discounted for mapping an X for a live person symbol?

A: Problem designer needs to use legend.

Q: On the fire as a quitter scenario, if a team puts the fire out prior to retreating out, will the team be discounted for that?

A: Yes, team should retreat. However, team should do all team functions required at that team stop at the areas the captain has explored (DIs, GTs, and RRs).

Q: If the direction of the fan cannot be changed, do teams still have to put BLOWING OR EXHAUSTING?

A: Map what the placard states when found and what changes to the fan must be shown.

Q: How is the team going to keep index cards dry enough, in the event of rain?

A: Teams must plan for rain.

Q: Will teams be discounted if they don't have a CCA?

A: No.

Q: With the placard against a condition (unsafe) in the number 3 entry located in the intersection, is the gas only in the condition or does it fill the entire intersection?

A: See figure 4-The entire intersection.

Q: IF the SCSR being used (such as an M20) doesn't come with goggles, will a team be discounted for not having goggles in smoke?

A: Yes.

Q: What if the captain or more make it through smoke and the #5 man comes through once others are through?

A: Prior to the #5 man entering smoke, he must be tied off, if team is using radios.

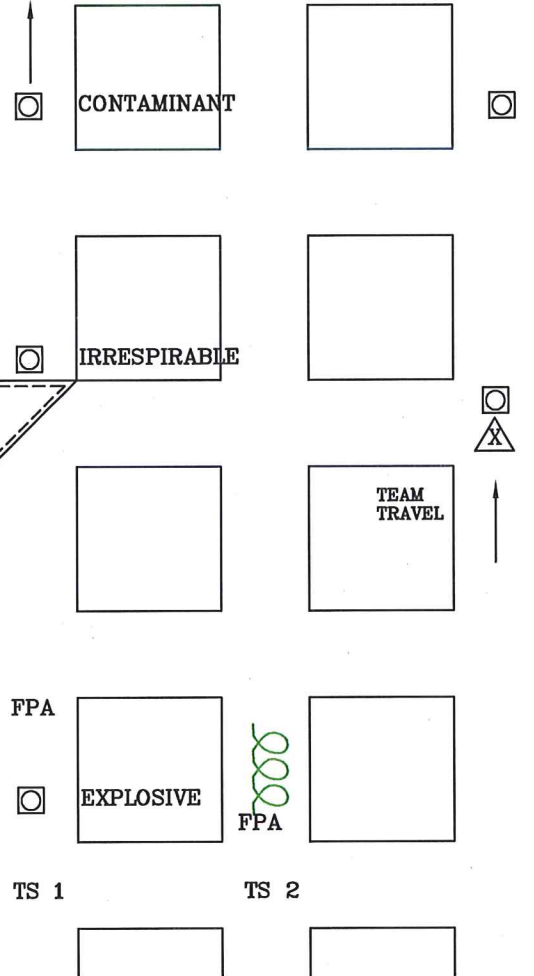
Q: If the instructions read: All areas inby and outby have been explored and have been found safe. Does that mean these caved and unsafe areas have been explored and safe?

A: Yes, if instructions say it is clear and OK to ventilate through, teams should be able to believe it is safe. If the instructions state the exploring teams were stopped by a condition they could not travel through, be careful about what you ventilate through those areas.

Q4 - IF TEAM REACHES "B" INTERSECTION CAN TEAM TRAVEL THROUGH CROSSCUT RATHER THAN RETREAT AND ADVANCE UP #3 ENTRY?
 A4 - YES, NO DISCOUNT IF #5 MAN DOES NOT BREAK THE IMAGINARY RIB LINE INBY CROSSCUT B

INITIAL ROUTE OF TEAM TRAVEL

B INTERSECTION



CONTAMINANT

CONTAMINANT

IRRESPIRABLE

EXPLOSIVE

INEXTINGUISHABLE FIRE

TEAM TRAVEL

Q2 - CAN TEAM SEE GAS PLACARD?
 IS THIS A QUITTER?
 A2 - IN THIS CASE, THE TEAM CANNOT SEE THE GAS PLACARD, SO IT IS NOT A WITHDRAWAL SITUATION AT THIS TIME.

FPA

EXPLOSIVE

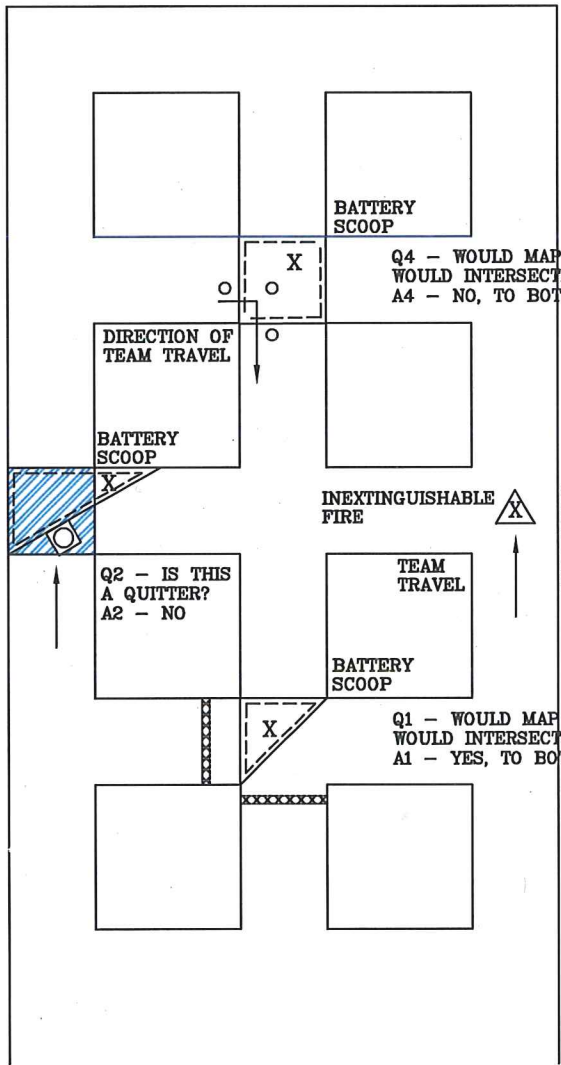
FPA

TS 1

TS 2

Q3 - IS THIS INTERSECTION CONSIDERED EXPLORED IF TEAM EXPLORES BOTH SIDES? CAN TEAMS VENTILATE THE IRRESPIRABLE AIR THROUGH IT IF PEOPLE ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR WITHOUT TIMBERING THROUGH IT?
 A3 - YES TO BOTH QUESTIONS.

Q1 - AT TS 1, TEAM EXPLORES UP TO ALL IMAGINARY LINES AND FINDS AN EXPLOSIVE MIXTURE. AT TS 2, TEAM FINDS SMOKE. DOES TEAM MAP FPA AT THE IMAGINARY LINE IN THE ENTRY INBY TS 1 AS SHOWN?
 A1 - YES, TEAM SHOULD MAP FPA AS SHOWN.



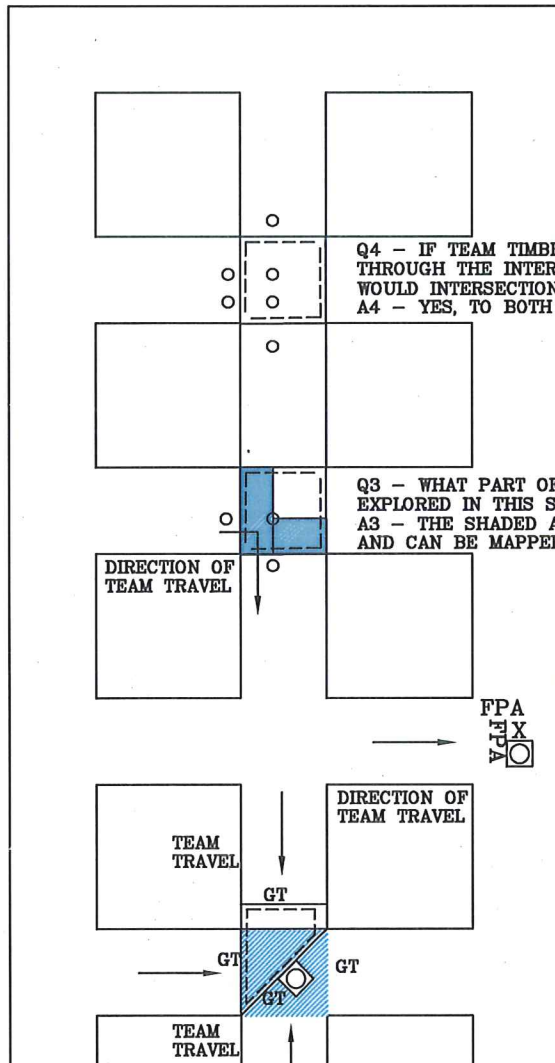
Q4 - WOULD MAP MAN MAP BATTERY SCOOP?
 WOULD INTERSECTION BE CONSIDERED EXPLORED?
 A4 - NO, TO BOTH QUESTIONS.

Q3 - WHERE ARE GAS TESTS REQUIRED?
 CAN TEAM BREAK PLANE TOWARD #2
 ENTRY?
 A3 - TAKE GAS TEST AT FIRE AND AT
 IMAGINARY LINE GOING TOWARD #2.
 DO NOT BREAK PLANE TOWARD #2.

Q2 - IS THIS
 A QUITTER?
 A2 - NO

Q1 - WOULD MAP MAN MAP BATTERY SCOOP?
 WOULD INTERSECTION BE CONSIDERED EXPLORED?
 A1 - YES, TO BOTH QUESTIONS.

TEAM TRAVEL



Q4 - IF TEAM TIMBERED AS SHOWN, CAN TEAM TRAVEL THROUGH THE INTERSECTION STRAIGHT UP THE ENTRY? WOULD INTERSECTION BE CONSIDERED EXPLORED?
 A4 - YES, TO BOTH QUESTIONS IF TEAM TRAVELS THROUGH IT.

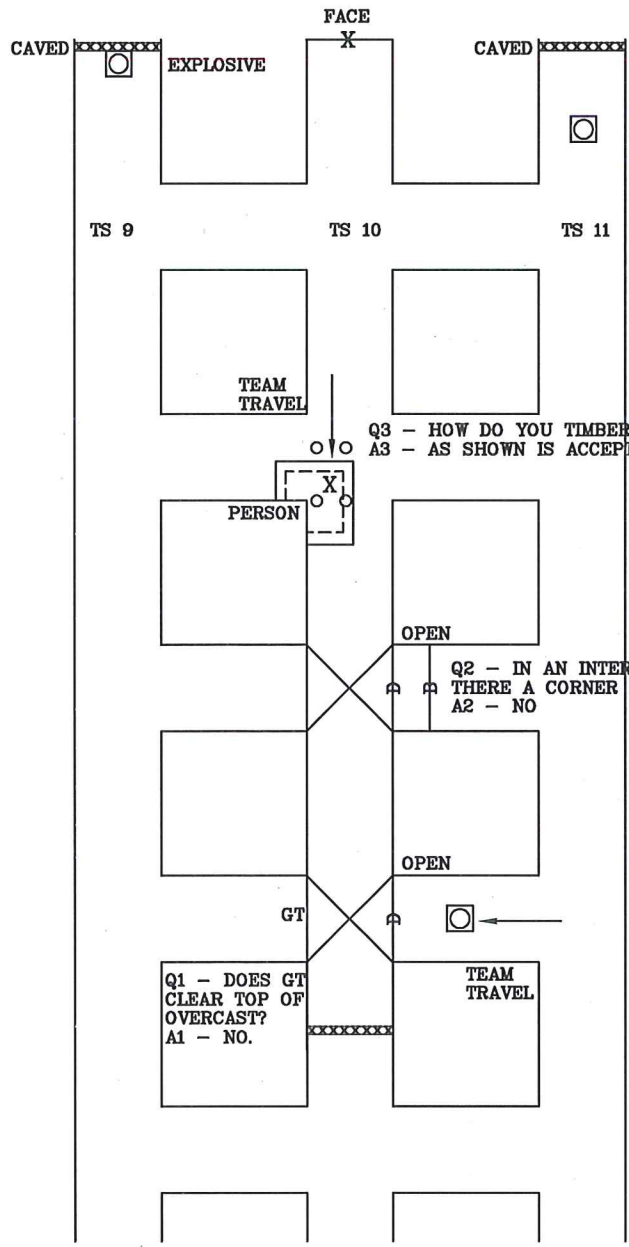
Q3 - WHAT PART OF INTERSECTION IS CONSIDERED EXPLORED IN THIS SITUATION?
 A3 - THE SHADED AREA IS CONSIDERED EXPLORED AND CAN BE MAPPED.

FPA
 X
 FPA
 O
 FPA

BATTERY SCOOP
 EXPLOSIVE MIXTURE

Q2 - HOW SHOULD FPA BE SHOWN IN THE CENTER OF AN INTERSECTION WHEN A WITHDRAWAL SITUATION IS DISCOVERED? SHOULD IT BE IN THE CENTER OF THE INTERSECTION, ON THE INBY AND OUTBY IMAGINARY LINES, OR ALL THREE?
 A2 - FPA IN CENTER OF INTERSECTION IS SUFFICIENT, BUT IF PLACED AS SHOWN THERE WOULD BE NO DISCOUNT. THIS IS ASSUMING THE OUTBY ENTRY HAS ALREADY BEEN EXPLORED SYSTEMATICALLY.

Q1 - WHAT IS EXTENT OF GAS? WHERE ARE GAS TESTS REQUIRED?
 A1 - AS SHOWN



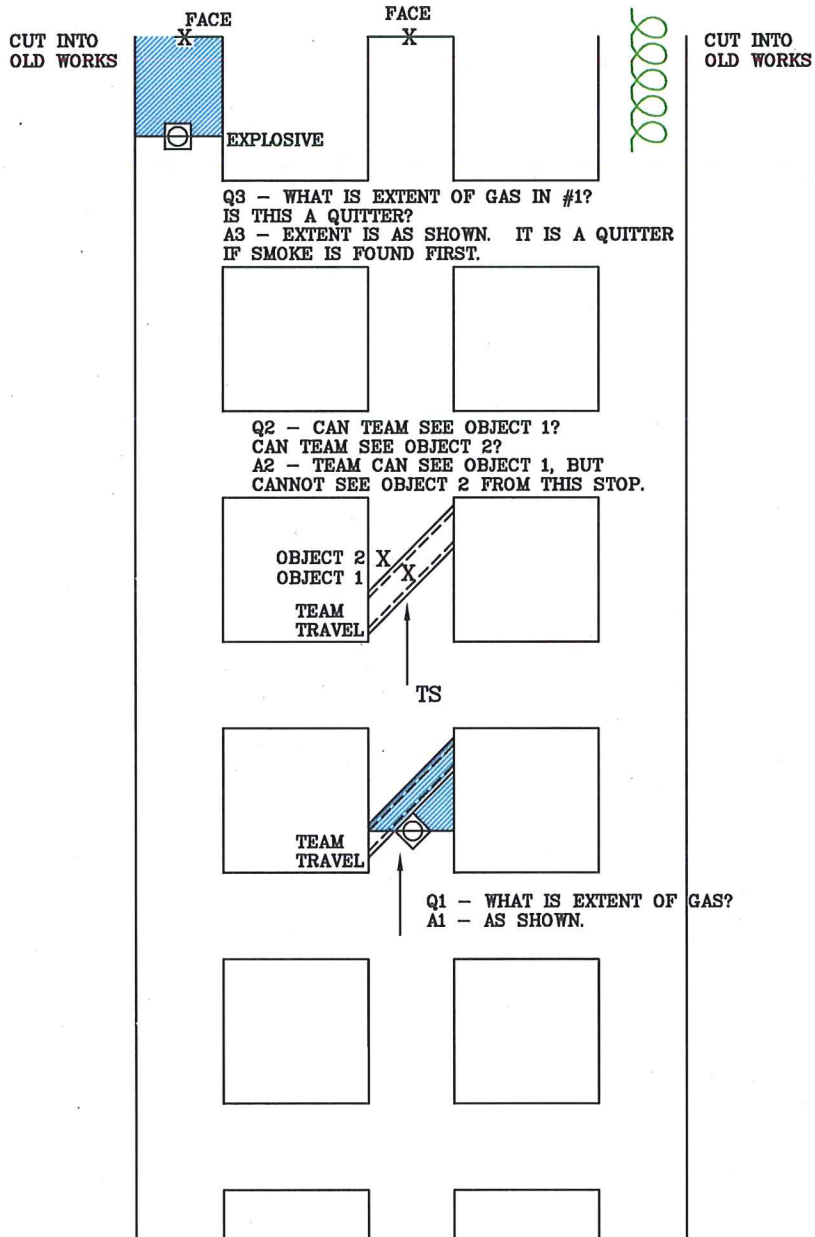
15 PPM CO

Q4 - AT TS 9 TEAM MAKES ITS REACH AND FINDS EXPLOSIVE. AT TS 11 TEAM FINDS EVIDENCE OF FIRE. IS THIS A QUITTER?
 A4 - YES, TEAMS MUST WITHDRAW IN THIS AND SIMILAR SCENARIOS.

Q3 - HOW DO YOU TIMBER TO MAKE THIS SAFE?
 A3 - AS SHOWN IS ACCEPTABLE

Q2 - IN AN INTERSECTION WITH AN OVERCAST, IS THERE A CORNER TO HOLD A LINE CURTAIN TO?
 A2 - NO

Q1 - DOES GT CLEAR TOP OF OVERCAST?
 A1 - NO.



BENCH

BG-4

Q: Do you have to announce the hand tight connection for the hose adaptor if you are using the new RZ-7000 tester in the contest?

A: No, you do not use a hose adapter with the RZ-7000 tester.

Q: Do you have to announce that you are checking the expiration date for the CO2 cartridge if a refillable cartridge is used in the contest?

A: No, if a refillable cartridge is used, you do not need to verbally identify anything about an expiration date.

BIO PAK 240-R

Q: #27 statement of fact has the word "in" in front of input. Does this "in" belong there?

A: It does not belong there. It should read as follows: Do not allow any fluids to contact the input port of the pressure regulator.

Q: If the contestant leaves the keys in the test unit after conducting the low pressure leak test and continues to the RMS and trim test with the keys in place, we were told the judges would stop the clock and tell the contestant to remove them from damaging the unit. The contestant would be discounted for an improper RMS and trim test. If the contestant redoes the RMS and trim test will, the discount be removed?

A: If the contestant leaves the keys in the test unit after conducting the low pressure leak test and continues to the RMS and trim test with the keys in place, the judges must wait until the contestant actually opens the O2 cylinder (Damage to the unit takes about 5 to 6 minutes after O2 cylinder is opened). The opening of the O2 cylinder is the point in which the contestant has moved on to the RMS and trim test. Without stopping the clock, the judges must tell the contestant to close the cylinder, remove the storage cap, and remove the keys. If the contestant has to be told to remove the keys they will be discontinued under Rule E5 which is a 2 point discount for failure to conduct a proper low pressure leak test. This rule clearly states that the test keys should be removed from the unit. If the judges have to tell the contestant to take out the keys, the contestant WILL NOT be able to have the 2 point discount removed by going back and repeating the test.

PRESHIFT

Q: Can the notes taken during the staging area review be used by the contestant once they get to the field? If so, how do they comply with rule #3 which states that “Personal Notes” are prohibited?

A: Notes taken during the staging area review are not considered “Personal Notes” as referred to in General Rule #3. They are considered material needed to work the problem.

Q: What is the definition of a “Key Word” as stated in General Rule #6?

A: The written exam is intended to be a test of the contestant’s knowledge of the statement of facts. The blanks should be “meaningful” words in the statement.

Q: Under rules governing 2017 Preshift Contest General Rule #2, can trainers in attendance of this training judge contestants during a preshift contest where MSHA and State officials may be limited by hours?

A: At the National Contest all judges will be employees of MSHA or assisting State Agencies. This is not intended to restrict local contest from using qualified/trained judges that are in a position to remain unbiased if no MSHA or State personnel are available.

SKILLS

Q: Does a team have to have 2 stretchers and 2 first aid kits for working the 2 and 3 man procedures?

A: NO, they do not. If the team in an entry finds a person requiring First Aid and/or transport the first aid supplies and stretcher can be brought to them by the other team.

FIRST AID

Q: Will the teams be given clear instructions as to when transportation is delayed either in the written problem or by envelope?

A: During problem designer meetings and the rules training problem designers were instructed that if signs and symptoms indicate an Immediate Patient that if they intend to have transportation delayed wait until the team has packaged the patient and they lift the patient off the ground/floor and say "Transporting Patient" then give an envelope/or verbal that transportation is delayed.

Q: Will the teams be given an envelope stating when transportation is available?

A: (See question number 1)

Q: During CPR with AED the skill sheets state that the second rescuer arrives with the AED during the 5th cycle of compressions. Does this mean that the 1st rescuer will be required to complete 4 sets of compressions and breaths prior to using the AED?

A: The AED will be applied during the 5th cycle of the first set of CPR. After the 5th cycle of CPR of the first set the team member will switch while AED analyzes. Then after the second set of CPR you will analyze again while the rescuers are switching again. Then at the end of 3rd set you will analyze and then CPR will be over. You are limited to 3 sets of CPR.

Q: Rule 14 states a 10 point discount for failure to apply the AED as soon as available? Yes the team would be docked under Rule 14 scorecard B ___ 10 discounts, but only if they do not apply the AED at all.

A: The AED will be applied during the 5th cycle of the first set of CPR. After the 5th cycle of CPR of the first set the team member will switch while AED analyzes. Then after the second set of CPR you will analyze again while the rescuers are switching again. Then at the end of 3rd set you will analyze and then CPR will be over. You are limited to 3 sets of CPR.

Q: Will the teams be assessed the 10 point discount if they don't apply the AED during the 5th cycle of CPR?

A: The AED will be applied during the 5th cycle of the first set of CPR. After the 5th cycle of CPR of the first set the team member will switch while AED analyzes. Then after the second set of CPR you will analyze again while the rescuers are switching again. Then at the end of 3rd set you will analyze and then CPR will be over. You are limited to 3 sets of CPR.

Q: Since the AED is part of their required equipment it would technically be available at all times, is it a dock if a team does not utilize the AED?

A: Yes the team would be docked under Rule 14 scorecard B ___ 10 discounts, but only if they do not apply the AED at all.

Q: Can all team members wear shorts and tennis shoes or do the working team members need long pants and boots?

A: Yes a team can wear shorts and tennis shoes as long as the team complies with-Rule #8 on Scorecard A- All team members and patient shall be dressed similarly. Shoes need not be identical. The patient may wear shorts even if the team members are wearing pants. The pants and shorts shall be the same color.
___ 1

Q: Who can I contact with questions on First Aid Competitions?

A: No further questions about the rules will be accepted after 4-5-2017 but contest information can be asked of from Vernus W. Sturgill at email address Sturgill.Vernus@dol.gov and Vicki L. Mullins at email address Mullins.Vicki@dol.gov or the MSHA Website

Q: Is that power point presentation that was used during the rules training be available on the MSHA web-site?

A: Yes but can only be used for training purposes only, as directed by Co-Director of the National Mine Rescue Contest Ron Burns.

Q: If a patient has fractures to both legs and the team is going to use a living splint, is it allowed to hold traction on the first leg with one team member, traction held by the bystander on the other leg while the other team member applies splint-Is this allowed if injuries are to be treated before leaving an area?

A: The Rules committee determined in this circumstance a living splint could not be utilized due to both legs being broken and neither providing support.

Q: If team "calls for help" ensures area is safe and other statements that are on several skill sheets, such as during initial assessment and then patient becomes a candidate for CPR must all of these statements be repeated?

A: Guidelines for skills sheet discounts: The team is required to call for help/call 911, once during the working of the problem. This statement must be made prior to starting triage. Agree

Q: CPR-on several occasions teams have been docked on CPR tape for the first compression not being straight-CPR Rule 5(d), pg.14. The first compression is not a release of an upstroke as it is the first compression. What is the interpretation on this?

A: It to be straight, if not will be docked under Rule 5 of the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation section of scorecard B. Agree

Q: According to skill sheet for 2-person CPR (No Spinal), step 7 states rescuer 1 is ventilating and step 9 states rescuer 2 arrives with AED-if rescuer 2 is giving compressions, how is this possible?

A: Changes to correct mistakes in skill sheets for both the TWO-RESCUER CPR WITH AED (NO SPINAL INJURY - MANIKIN ONLY) and TWO-RESCUER CPR WITH AED (WITH SPINAL INJURY - MANIKIN ONLY) were made to make it possible that a Rescuer can apply the AED.

Q: What is the difference by Rule, between delayed and minor patient?

A: A minor Patient can walk as per Initial Assessment page 16 MINOR: (Can walk) Detailed Patient Assessment treating all injuries and conditions and prepare for transport. After all IMMEDIATE and DELAYED patient(s) have been treated and transported. Agree

Q: Does all first-aid equipment have to be inside of the 15 X 15 box and does it need placed outside the box at the end of the problem?

A: No the field layout for working of the problem is 15' X 15' with typically additional 15' X 3' area also marked off for the team's 1st Aid equipment. A team should not be docked under Rule 18 as it pertains to "team members will be kept behind a baseline designated by a Contest Official" unless a portion of the working teams body is actually outside the 15' X 18' feet area. The area of 3' X 15' is for the team to put their 1st Aid equipment. At the end of a problem the 15 x 15 area has to be cleared off all equipment with everything behind the base line

Q: Time discounts should be thrown out (team got time docks for by doing everything right) Rule 15, pg.3. It's unfair to team that works the problem right.

A: Teams working time is an average and the time docks will remain. Agree

Q: Will the teams be given clear instructions as to when transportation is delayed either in the written problem or by envelope?

A: Problem Design Issue answered in question number 1 of these questions and answers.

Q: Will the questions for written exam change for this year?

A: No the questions will remain the same.

Q: Can procedures that the team was docked but the judges did not go over be protested as being conducted since they weren't discussed at the end of the 1st Aid Problem?

A: No Rule 14 page 3 states "Any physical treatment(s) not performed, i.e. bandage, splint will be pointed out to team at this time". Not all procedures/skills not conducted are not required to be gone over with the team. This question was also answered during the 2015 National questions and answers (available on the MSHA web-site)

Q: Will a Team's 1st Aid equipment be checked for complying with the materials list?

A: It is a possibility and the list on page 6 is only minimums required for each team.

Q: Can a bystander take support on a manikin during CPR?

A: Yes as per Rule 6 page 8 if a team complies with the following "The bystander must be shown the correct method of support and maintaining the open airway by a team member or members any time during the working of the problem, but before taking support."

Q: Is it required for a team to ask if bleeding is controlled during treatment of an injury involving the control of bleeding?

A: No, Judges should have the skill sheets/problem that dictates the extent that bleeding is to be completed from direct pressure to the use of a tourniquet, once the treatment has been completed as it goes through the progression of each of the treatments the Judges should notify the team if bleeding is controlled. If it was I as a team member I would complete the treatment and ask if not told in the case the judges are busy watching the team as they work.

Q: During the treatment of an Immediate Patient what portions of rapid patient assessment is required to be conducted?

A: Skill sheets for Initial Assessment and Patient Assessment and as per guidance on page 16 of the National First Aid Rules indicates the following: "IMMEDIATE: Rapid Patient Assessment treating all life threats (listed on page 8 of Scorecard A discounts) Load and Go. If the treatment interrupts the rapid trauma assessment, the assessment will be completed at the end of the treatment."