



# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## *Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy*

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Virginia Recognizes 25 Mines for Excellence in Worker Safety**

*Virginia coal industry is fatality free for third consecutive year*

**Big Stone Gap, Va.** – The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) awarded coal mines in the Commonwealth for no injuries on their sites in 2017. Thirteen miners were also recognized with individual awards for working decades without injury.

“Safety is our first priority,” said Virginia Division of Mines Chief Randy Moore. “We continue to invest our resources making sure Virginia’s coal miners are safe.”

Virginia’s Coal industry had no fatalities for 2017, 2016 and 2015 a commendable achievement. “Three years of no fatalities lets us know our people and programs in our coal mine safety division are doing their jobs well,” said DMME Deputy Director Butch Lambert. “This is an achievement DMME is proud to announce”.

Virginia Coal Mine Safety Awards are presented on behalf of the Virginia Coal Mine Safety Board and the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. These awards publicly recognize outstanding safety achievements in the state’s coal mining industry.

### **Awards are presented in the following categories:**

- **Large Underground Mine**
- **Medium Underground Mine**
- **Small Underground Mine**
- **Large Surface Operation**
- **Medium Surface Operation**
- **Small Surface Operation**
- **Special Safety Award (recognizing the efforts of an individual or group)**

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Surface operations may include surface mining, auger, preparation plant, construction crew, and similar operations. Special safety awards will be considered for consecutive years without a lost time injury by individuals or operations, or other outstanding individual achievements in promoting mine safety.

## **COMPANY SAFETY AWARDS**

### **LARGE UNDERGROUND CATEGORY**

- There were no winners in this category for 2017

### **MEDIUM UNDERGROUND CATEGORY**

**Please note that all winners in this category are in the Division of Mines - Small Mine Safety Service (SMSS) Program.**

- Jarisa, Inc., Deep Mine #25 – 56,930 employee hours
- AB&J Coal Company, Inc. No. 6 Mine – 45,314 employee hours
- D&H Mining, Inc., No. 2 – 39,704 employee hours

### **SMALL UNDERGROUND CATEGORY**

**Please note that all winners in this category are in the Division of Mines - Small Mine Safety Service (SMSS) Program.**

- Four O Mining Corporation, No. 10 – 24,459 employee hours
- Estep Coal, OMM – 21,348 employee hours
- DaCoal Mining, Inc., No. 5 Mine – 11,923 employee hours

### **LARGE SURFACE CATEGORY**

- Paramount Contura, LLC, 88 Strip – 268,748 employee hours
- Black Diamond company, Wellmore #8 Prep Plant – 113,900 employee hours
- Surface Minerals, Surface Mine No. 1 – 111,769 employee hours
- Paramount Contura, Cabin Ridge Surface – 95,483 employee hours
- Surface Minerals, Huffman Fork – 90,845 employee hours
- Ridgetop Development, #1 – 77,367 employee hours
- Paramount Contura, Toms Creek Prep Plant – 60,228 employee hours
- Revelation Energy, P-7 Pigeon Creek – 53,831 employee hours
- Omega Surface Mining, Louis Lowe Surface – 52,289 employee hours

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## **MEDIUM SURFACE CATEGORY**

- Omega HW Mining, Huffman Highwall – 48,587 employee hours
- Black Jewell, P-14 – 47,661 employee hours
- Ramaco Resources, Coal Creek Prep Plant – 39,869 employee hours
- Paramount Contura, Cabin Ridge HWM – 29,978 employee hours
- Savage Services, Savage Blending Terminal – 26,413 employee hours
- Clintwood Elkhorn, Clintwood Elkhorn III – 25,923 employee hours

## **SMALL SURFACE CATEGORY**

- Omega HW Mining II, LLC, Buffalo Highwall – 22,591 employee hours
- Mill Creek Mining, Ken Energy Corp – 16,513 employee hours
- Wellmore Coal Company, LLC, #7 Prep Plant – 14,451 employee hours
- C W Augering, Inc., No. 2 – 11,787 employee hours

## **SPECIAL SAFETY AWARDS**

### **40 YEAR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

- Benny Givens, Paramount Contura – 44 years
- Jack Quillen, Paramount Contura, 40 years
- Michael Ohlson, Paramount Contura, 40 years
- Jasper E. Reynolds, Paramount Contura, 40 years
- Allen Shelton, Paramount Contura, 40 years

### **30 YEAR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

- Trevor Childress, Paramount Contura – 32 years

### **20 YEAR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

- Randy Sturgill, Paramount Contura – 21 years
- Roy Edward Hill, Paramount Contura – 20 years

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## 10 YEAR INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- David A. Sexton, Paramount Contura – 14 years
- Ritchie D. Sowards, Paramount Contura – 13 years
- Danny D. Slone II, Paramount Contura – 11 years
- Gary Woodruff, Paramount Contura – 11 years
- Steven Harper, Paramount Contura – 10 years

For more information on mine safety in Virginia, visit our [website](#).

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