



DIVISIONS

ENERGY  
GAS AND OIL  
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
MINED LAND RECLAMATION  
MINERAL MINING  
MINES  
ADMINISTRATION

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

## *Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy*

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### Virginia's Small Mines Have Record Year For Safety

*Awards Recognize Achievements in Hours Worked with no Lost Time Accidents*

**Big Stone Gap, VA** –Thirty-four Virginia mines worked a combined total of over two million employee hours without a lost time accident in 2013. All of these mines were recognized for their extraordinary safety achievements with awards presented by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) on behalf of the Virginia Mine Safety Board to coal mines, and in coordination with the Virginia Transportation and Construction Alliance (VTCA) to mineral mines.

For the first time, all mines involved with the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Small Mine Safety Service Program received safety awards. The General Assembly secured \$270,000 to ensure services continued through the Small Mine Safety Service Program. Governor Terry McAuliffe said he was proud to keep that money in the state's budget. "Our miners across the Commonwealth deserve opportunities for training and safety service. I was happy to sign a budget that included money for a program that has proven successful in not only saving lives, but keeping people healthy and working."

The Small Mine Safety Service is a voluntary, on-site safety awareness, training and technical assistance program for selected mines that have contracted for services with DMME. The specialized program is provided only to mines that employ less than 25 people since these mining operations do not typically have the training resources or the technical expertise to implement an accident reduction program.

Mine Division Chief Randy Moore applauded the program and its accomplishments. "DMME's number one purpose is to keep these miners safe. We are so glad to be able to provide these smaller operations with the skills and knowledge they need to produce coal safely. I'm pleased the General Assembly recognized the value of this service to our miners and to see it working with a record number of small coal mines receiving awards."

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Mineral Mining Director Phil Skorupa noted the accomplishments of these miners. “Working thousands of hours in an industrial zone without an injury is quite an accomplishment. It is important to recognize the significant achievements of Virginia’s mines and their employees. It is clear that mine management and the miners themselves are focusing on safety at all levels.”

Top awards went to the following mines: (County), \*SMSS- member of the Small Mine Safety Service program

- SunCoke Energy, Dominion #7– 182,342 employee hours (Buchanan), Large Underground Coal Mine
- Paramont Coal Company Virginia, LLC, Deep Mine 37- 173,903 (Dickenson), Large Underground Coal Mine
- AB&J Coal Company Inc., Mine No.6 – 43,378 employee hours (Buchanan), Medium Underground Coal Mine \*SMSS
- Black Diamond Coal Company, Mine No. 1– 24,118 employee hours (Buchanan), Small Underground Coal Mine \*SMSS
- Extra Energy, Virginia Point No. 1 Surface Mine – 245,396 employee hours (Tazewell), Large Surface Coal Mine
- Twin Star Mining, Inc., Lower Elk Creek– 35,941 employee hours (Buchanan), Medium Surface Coal Mine
- Dominion Coal Corporation, Dominion Central Shop – 22,877 employee hours (Buchanan), Small Surface Coal Mine
- Lhoist North America, Kimballton Plant #1- 176,700 employee hours (Giles), Quarry
- William G. Lilley, Lilley Pit- 4,959 employee hours (city of Virginia Beach), Open Pit

Photos of all coal companies and miners recognized can be viewed on the DMME website at <http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DM/CMSA/13CMSAPresentation.pdf>

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