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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Virginia Celebrates Mine Rescue Day October 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Big Stone Gap-** The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) is joining the Mine Safety and Health Administration in celebration of the third annual Mine Rescue Day. Throughout our nation's mining history, many in the mining community have been called upon to rescue miners from an array of emergency situations in coal and metal and nonmetal mines.

Members of mine rescue teams are often volunteers. Changes in safety laws and regulations over the years have prevented mine emergencies in which these teams would be needed but they are prepared for whenever they get the call.

"Miners that step up and serve on mine rescue teams are to be commended", said Virginia Mine Chief, Randy Moore. "From my experience in mining, it is easier to do your job to know experienced people have your back and will risk their own lives to save yours."

Mine rescue team members put their lives on the line to help miners trapped by mine fires, explosions, roof falls, inundations of water or harmful gases and other emergency conditions. There have been times team members had the most difficult task of recovering those who did not survive.

DMME is also equipped with technology to assist those teams should the agency's services be needed. A new emergency response vehicle was purchased with an MSHA grant and contains communication and tracking equipment in order to assist those teams while they're underground should an emergency occur.

On Mine Rescue Day, Virginia salutes the brave individuals who have exhibited unprecedented heroism in risking their own lives in the service of others.

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Learn more at: [www.msha.gov/MineRescueDay](http://www.msha.gov/MineRescueDay)  
<https://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DM/EmergencyResponseMineRescue.shtm>  
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