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Team Wins Annual Virginia Mining Institute's Mine Rescue & Safety Contest

Blacksburg, VA – Wellmore Coal Company-Red Mine Rescue Team took top honors in the Virginia Mining Institute's Mine Rescue Competition held August 4th-6th. The competition was held at the Blacksburg Parks and Recreation Community Center. The rescue and safety contest was sponsored by the Virginia Mining Institute (VMI). The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), Kentucky mine officials, Ohio mine officials, West Virginia mine officials, Brick Street and several volunteers came to help at the event.

The teams competed to conduct rescue and recovery operations in a staged mine disaster scenario. Team members wore full mine rescue gear, including oxygen breathing apparatus, to determine underground mine conditions, construct ventilation controls and locate and extract accident "victims".

The teams were judged on their thoroughness in recording mine conditions on a map as they advanced into the "mine" and their ability to identify and respond to hazards that could endanger the team or trapped miners.

DMME's Mine Chief Randy Moore presented the awards to the winning teams. "Despite trends in the coal industry, as long as one person is mining coal in Virginia, these teams must be prepared for any emergency."

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Grand Champion of Mine Rescue: Wellmore Coal Company- Red Team

1st Runner-Up of Mine Rescue: Consol Buchanan Mining- Red Team

2nd Runner-Up of Mine Rescue: Wellmore Coal Company- Gray Team

3rd Runner-Up of Mine Rescue: Prairie State Generating- Lively Grove Team

1st Place Mine Rescue Team Day 1: Wellmore Coal Company- Red Team

2nd Place Team Day 1: Prairie State Generating- Lively Grove Team

3rd Place Team Day 1: Wellmore Coal Company- Gray Team

1st Place Mine Rescue Team Day 2: Consol Buchanan Mining- Red Team

2nd Place Mine Rescue Team Day 2: State of Alabama- Blue Team

3rd Place Mine Rescue Team Day 2: Consol Buchanan Mining- Black Team

Bench 1st Place: BG4- State of Alabama- James Gardner

Bench 2nd Place: BG4- Consol Buchanan Mining- Josh Richardson

Bench 1st Place: BioMarine 240R- Wellmore Coal Company- Shannon Moore

Pre-Shift 1st Place: Consol Buchanan Mining- Kenny Richardson

Pre-Shift 2nd Place: Wellmore Coal Company- Lance Wimmer

Pre-Shift 3rd Place: Wellmore Coal Company- Bill Slone

Mine Rescue Teams: Wellmore Coal Gray Team, Wellmore Coal Red Team, Consol Buchanan Black Team, Consol Buchanan Red Team, State of Alabama Blue Team, State of Alabama Green Team and Prairie State Generating Company.

The teams came from Virginia, Alabama and Illinois.

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