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“The Miners’ Bond” Coal Mine Safety Video Wins National Mine Safety and Health Administration Award

Big Stone Gap, VA – The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) took top honors at the National Mine Health and Safety Academy Training Resources Applied to Mining Awards (TRAM) with the newest mine safety video “The Miners’ Bond”

The video was developed to teach all underground coal miners, trainers, underground instructors and those designated as the Responsible Person at the mine site the actions to take if a mine explosion or other emergency occurred at their mine.

“The Miners’ Bond” was produced by DMME, Contura Energy and Alpha Natural Resources. It received the Grand Prize for the best overall miner training material in the nation. In addition, the training video took first place for media training material.

The purpose of the video is to demonstrate real, life-threatening situations that miners may be confronted with after a mine explosion occurs and what action should be taken underground and on the surface when attempting to rescue miners after such an event. Virginia Mine Chief Randy Moore believes sharing this video with coal miners will save lives. “Our mines are safer today than they have ever been,” said Moore. “But, you never know when an emergency such as this could happen underground. We hope this video will help instill the skills and processes needed to save lives in a mine emergency.”

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“There is no greater priority at the mine site than keeping our miners safe and proper training is a key aspect of that work,” said Allen Dupree, Senior Vice President of Safety and Health for Contura Energy. “The passion that Ronnie Biggerstaff and other members of our team put into this video is a testament to that commitment to safety. It was a pleasure to collaborate with the professionals at DMME and Alpha Natural Resources and an honor to receive this award.”

“We hope this reaches coal miners across the nation. There is no better way to prepare those on the job for an emergency situation than to bring it to life,” said DMME Deputy Director Butch Lambert. “The cooperation between regulatory agencies and industry involved truly represents how much we all care about the safety of our coal miners.”

“The Miners’ Bond” can be found on [DMME’s YouTube Channel](#). Copies are also available on request by contacting DMME at (276) 523-8100.

The project was funded through MSHA via the 2016 States Grant program.

DMME has produced four other safety videos, “No Way Out”, “Lead the Way”, “The Right Choice” and “Step Up to the Plate” which were also awarded a Grand Prize in 2014, 2012 and 2004 and First Place in 2006, respectively at MSHA’s Annual Training Materials Competition. “No Way Out” and “Lead the Way” also featured an emergency situation underground. “The Right Choice” addressed continuous mining machine safety and “Step Up to the Plate,” substance abuse in the work place. All videos can be found on [DMME’s YouTube channel](#).

In addition, DMME won first place in training materials for its continuing education for underground mine foremen.

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