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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 28, 2016

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## **Virginia Celebrates Mine Rescue Day October 30<sup>th</sup>** *DMME Mine Rescue Team Completes Advanced Training*

**Big Stone Gap-** The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) is joining the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) in celebration of the fourth annual Mine Rescue Day on October 30th. 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 significantly reduced mine emergencies in which these teams could be needed but they are prepared if they ever get the call.

DMME started a mine rescue team in 2016 that has completed over 1,650 hours of training. The team has visited 36 underground coal mines and competed in rescue competitions. In addition, they spent two days of advanced mine rescue skills training at a specially designed facility in West Virginia.

“While we celebrate all of those that volunteer to put their lives on the line should a mine emergency occur on this day, we also want to give our first state team a pat on the back,” said Virginia Mine Chief Randy Moore. “These guys have worked hard to prepare and I’m proud of how much they’ve grown through training, mine visits and competitions since we first announced their formation back in March.”

***-MORE-***

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.

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

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