



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Coal and Energy Alliance

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Wellmore Coal Company's Red Team Wins 31st Annual Governor's Cup Mine Rescue & Safety Contest

Wise, VA – Wellmore Coal Company's Red Team took top honors in the 31st annual Governor's Cup Mine Rescue and Safety Contest Thursday, June 1, 2017. The competition was held on the campus of University of Virginia's College at Wise. The rescue and safety contests were co-hosted by the Virginia Coal & Energy Alliance (VCEA), Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

Teams competed to conduct rescue and recovery operations in a staged mine disaster scenario laid out in the university's convocation center. Team members donned 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.

"This competition is so much more than a test of lifesaving skills," noted Virginia Mine Chief Randy Moore, "This is an opportunity for comradery among Virginia's mine rescue teams and a chance for them to learn from one another. Should an emergency occur they would all be working side by side. Knowing the faces of those with you in an emergency can make a difficult situation better."

“I’ve been involved in this competition since the first Governor’s Cup was awarded,” said VCEA President Harry Childress. “There is no better way to prepare our mine rescue teams to act than the skills test at this event.”

Governor’s Cup/ 1st Place Team: Wellmore Coal Company Red Team
2nd Place Team: Contura Energy Paramount Contura Team

Bench 1st Place: BG4-Tim Turner, Revelation Energy
Bench 1st Place: BIO-PAK-Shannon Moore, Wellmore Coal Company

Pre-Shift: William Carroll, Wellmore Coal Company
2nd Place: Casey Mooneyhan Contura Energy

Governor’s Cup Teams: Arch Coal Lone Mountain Processing, Inc. Lone Mountain Team, Buchanan Minerals, LLC Buchanan Red and Black Team, Wellmore Coal Company Red Team, Revelation Energy, LLC Revelation Energy Mine Rescue Team, Alpha Natural Resources Southern West Virginia Team, Virginia Small Operators Mine Rescue Team #1 and Contura Energy Paramount Contura Team.

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