



# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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## **Paramont Contura Takes Home Virginia Governor's Cup at 33<sup>rd</sup> Mine Rescue and Safety Competition**

*~Alden Resources Placed First in Mine Rescue Competition~*

**Wise, VA** – Alden Resources took top honors in the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Virginia Governor's Cup Mine Rescue and Safety Contest held Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Because the team is based in Kentucky, second place team Paramont Contura was awarded the Virginia Governor's Cup at the event. 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 and Energy Alliance (VCEA), Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

The mine rescue teams competed to conduct rescue and recovery operations in a staged mine disaster scenario laid out in the university's David J. Prior 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."

Individual coal miners also competed in the bench and preshift competitions. The preshift competition is designed for mine foreman and judges their ability to identify and rid the coal mine of any problems. Foreman do this check before the beginning of each shift to ensure the safety of their crews.

The bench competition has miners looking for problems in the breathing gear their team uses. Competitors need to quickly identify discrepancies that could put their teammates at risk if it causes the pack to not properly function.

“I’ve been involved in this competition since the first Governor’s Cup was awarded 33-years ago,” **said VCEA President Harry Childress.** “There is no better way to prepare our mine rescue teams for possible real-life scenarios than the skills test at this event.”

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Team:** Alden Resources  
**Virginia Governor’s Cup/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team:** Paramont Contura

**Bench 1<sup>st</sup> Place: BG4:** Tony Lloyd, BlackJewel  
**Bench 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 240R:** Shannon Moore, Wellmore

**Pre-Shift:** Franklin Moore, Contura Paramont  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Steve Countiss, BlackJewel

**Virginia Governor’s Cup Teams:** Alden Resources, Buchanan Red, Buchanan Black, BlackJewel, Greenbrier Minerals, Nicholas Contura, Paramont Contura, Southern Pocahontas, Virginia Small Operators Mine Rescue and Wellmore

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