

Southwestern Regional Mine Rescue Contest
Taos, NM
May 21-23, 2013

Technician Scenario
Gatewood Gold Mine

This is the Gatewood North Mine. This is a previously mined operation which was shut down and mining operations were moved to another location on the property.

The mine was going to be re-opened. The mine rescue teams from the mine presently operating was asked to use the re-opening as mine rescue practice and establish conditions and see what would be needed to re-open the mine.

The Mine has a 2000-foot ramp leading to the old workings of the mine. The mine had not been ventilated and had set idle for 2 years. Conditions were totally unknown what the teams would encounter.

At 8:00 a.m. this morning a 3-man team went down the ramp about 1000 foot. There was no means of communication taken and none available in the mine. The team came out of the mine at 9:00 a.m. and reported the conditions were too hot and humid for them to proceed any further.

A second 3- man team said they would take over and go finish the exercise. They entered the mine at 9:30 a.m. They still did not have any means of communication with them and did not have cooling devices installed in their apparatus. They were exploring under oxygen, so we do not know any conditions, such as gases they encountered.

They have not returned and we have not heard from them. We would like your team to find and bring out the missing team members as soon as possible.

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Technician Scenario - SOLUTION

The teams should address the following:

- Say they will take communication with them.
- Address the cooling issue for their apparatus.
- Address something to aid for heat exhaustion (in case any of the survivors found may have)
- Make sure they have instruments to check for black damp
- They need to ask if the mine is classified as gassy (which it is not) to decide if they need non sparking tools.