

Missouri Mine Rescue Contest Rolla, MO
9/24/2014

Team Briefing Statement

You have arrived at the Cherry Hills 4 mine, an underground silver mine that is owned and operated by Mentone Company Inc. This is a room and pillar operation that was developed in the early 90's by the Loose Cannon Brothers and then abandoned in 1995 shortly after the early stages of development.

The mine was recently purchased by the Mentone Co. and is being rehabilitated, due to constant seismic activity in the area prior to the new ownership. In addition to the rehab work the mine has recently installed a downcast airshaft on the West side of the mine. During the drilling process a three foot coal seam was discovered approx. 100' down the airshaft and the mine has installed an AMS (Atmospheric Monitoring System) with sensors located in strategic locations in the airshaft for gas monitoring concerns. The mine plans to begin production in 6 months.

The mine currently operates one single twelve hour shift which runs from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and operates from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays for maintenance work.

At 8:00 a.m. a four man crew entered the mine to perform routine maintenance work. Supervisor John Mentone dropped the crew off underground and then proceeded to surface to check the AMS and check the control doors at the top of downcast airshaft, which had been closed for several days due to repairs below.

Supervisor Mentone then left the mine to get breakfast for the crew. At approximately 9:45 a.m. Mr. Mentone arrived at the mine portal where he met with Jim E. just inside the portal, Jim was running out of the mine and informed John that the ground had been shaking and he saw smoke down the return drift. John and Jim left to the surface office to try and make contact with the other miners via phone. Their efforts were unsuccessful and they notified MSHA of the incident.

You will be the second team to enter the mine, the first team has exhausted their breathing apparatuses and explored the entire east side of the mine, they did not locate any missing miners. They have marked their explored areas in the mine.

If you are ready and willing, the services of your mine rescue team are needed. We want you to map all accessible areas of the mine, account for all missing miners, and bring any live survivors to the fresh air base. The mine manager will be available at the fresh air base for any questions or requests. GOOD LUCK!