

TEAM BRIEFING
New Iberia, LA
May 2014

Thank you for coming to aid us at the Swamp Dog Mine. This is an underground Salt mine that is owned and operated by the Red Fish Mining Company. The mine was developed in the early 1960s and has recently been purchased and re-opened by a new owner from South America and is currently going through a very high turnover rate.

The new owners have placed a large sum of money into the operation, sinking a new shaft (due to some controlled ground conditions in the old exhaust drift), purchasing 3 new haul trucks and 2 continuous miners.

This mine is a single level operation which now has 3 shafts – the #1 exhaust shaft, the #2 and #3 intake shafts. The management plans to take the #1 shaft out of service and re-vamp the ventilation as soon as conditions warrant.

The mine currently operates two 10-hour shifts, which run from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m., 7 days per week. Due to the harsh winter in the Northeast, the production was increased to full capacity with an effort to keep up with the demand for ice control salt.

At 09:00 the continuous miner operator smelled smoke and called the hoist man to activate the evacuation alarm. At close to the same time the hoist operator observed black smoke exiting the exhaust shaft. The hoist operator began the evacuation of the mine and everyone was out except for five miners. He had parked the man cage at the 1200' mine level and was waiting for the rest of the crew. Clyde Hebert, the maintenance supervisor who was evacuated, stated that they heard a loud popping-like explosion and the mine power was turning off and on. Several minutes later he observed smoke coming through the lunch room area. He gathered as many miners as he could and headed toward the shaft. When he conducted a head count, he realized that five miners were missing. This was the first week on the job for four of the five missing miners.

The mine map was last updated April 1, 2014 by an outside survey company that does underground survey work. The maps are not in our possession at this time; however, we do have a map on hand that was updated six months ago.

The main fan is a non-reversible fan located underground. There are two fully equipped mine rescue teams on site and all federal, state and local agencies have been notified.

If you are ready and willing, the service of your mine rescue team is greatly needed. It is now 11:30 a.m., and your team will be the first to enter the mine. We want you to account for all missing miners, bring all live miners to surface, extinguish or seal any fires, and map all accessible areas of the mine. The mine Manager will convene with you at the fresh air base and will monitor the exploration as you progress. Good luck!